

ATHLETICS 41
The running battle
against anorexia



THE FULL MONTY

Geoff Brown
sees a joyous
comedy

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OLD ROCKERS SPEAK OUT

George Harrison on
the Spice Girls

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'97-98 FACTSHEET INSIDE

FULL DETAILS
IN SECTION 3



Her concerns 'are humanitarian'

Princess tries to calm anger of the Tories

By EMMA WILKINS, ANDREW PIERCE AND BEN MACINTYRE

DIANA, Princess of Wales, sought to extricate herself from a deepening political row yesterday over her alleged criticism of the former Conservative Government's policy on landmines.

The Princess denied that she had described Tory policy as "hopeless" to a French newspaper but Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, intervened to exploit her remarks for the maximum political capital.

Constitutionalists and Tory MPs reacted with outrage over the Princess's alleged comments as *Le Monde* said it stood by its story.

In an interview with Annick Cojean, the Princess is quoted as saying: "The Labour Government's position has always been clear. It's going to do terrific work. Its predecessor was really hopeless."

The Princess, who is in contact with her office by mobile phone from her Mediterranean cruise, with Dodi Fayed, is said to be extremely annoyed and feels "very let down" by *Le Monde*.

Her office said: "The attention of Diana, Princess of Wales, has been drawn to reports to the effect that in an article published by *Le Monde* she was quoted as being critical of the previous Government's policy towards the banning of anti-personnel landmines."

The Princess made such criticism of her stance on the question of landmines has been apolitical throughout. Her concerns are exclusively humanitarian."

Mrs Cojean, who speaks



Annick Cojean: "I wrote exactly what she said"

fluent English and has worked for *Le Monde* for 15 years, denied that she had misquoted the Princess. "I wrote exactly what she said, that's it. I wrote everything she said and only what she said."

Mrs Cojean, who has kept her notes, said that she had sent some supplementary questions to the Princess. "I didn't know it was so important. Everybody knows the Conservatives were not ready to move on banning landmines. The Princess was great. I really believe in her sincerity."

Mr Cook, who is in Kuala Lumpur, expressed his "immense admiration" for the Princess. When asked whether such a political intervention was wise, he said: "I have never criticised anyone for being frank about the previous Government."

Mr Cook, who saw the Princess before her recent trip to meet landmine victims in Bosnia, welcomed her campaign for a worldwide ban. "I am very pleased she recognises the Labour Government shares her concern and has already made very substantial progress towards signalling Britain's complete withdrawal from the production and trade in landmines. What motivates her is the damage that has been done to so many innocent people, particularly children."

The Tory Party leadership, which was irritated by the intervention of the Foreign Secretary, refused to be drawn. But Sir Patrick Cormack, shadow deputy leader of the Commons, described the Princess as "unwise, inexperienced," and "damaging her own cause."

Lord Blake, the historian and constitutionalist said: "It is quite the most extraordinary thing I have heard from a member of the Royal Family. Party politics has always been taboo. Members of the Royal Family until now have stayed aloof from the divisions of party politics and never breached the convention."

A friend of the Princess spoke of her frustration and annoyance at being dragged into a political row. "She has always been studiously non-political. It's true that she was surprised when she heard the new Government but there is no way she would criticise its predecessor. It begins to believe that she would make a commitment like that."

It is understood that a draft Confirmed on page 2, col 2

Magnus Linklater and Diary, page 16



CPO Bob Saunders is welcomed home to Culdrose by his wife, Chris, yesterday

Round-world yacht family saved by Navy

By STEPHEN FARRELL

A COUPLE and their six-year-old son needed to be rescued by the crew of HMS *Illustrious* after their yacht was battered by 30ft waves for three days in the Bay of Biscay.

Don and Yvonne Newman, who sold everything so that they could sail around the world with their son Daniel, were 200 miles from land and close to exhaustion on *Touchdown*, their 36ft yacht, when they sent out a distress call. The message was relayed by a merchant vessel to *Illustrious*, which was 60 miles away and heading for Portsmouth after a Far Eastern tour.

Last night Les Rant, a professional sailing instructor and former neighbour of the Newman family, said he was surprised when he heard they had decided to sail around the world. "They didn't have very much experience, and I thought they were being a bit ambitious. But quite often people seem to buy a boat and just sail off," he said, adding: "But it's a solid old boat."

As soon as *Illustrious* received the distress message, it launched four Sea King helicopters in mountainous seas in what Commander Fred Aitken, the ship's spokesman, said was "the most extraordinary rescue I have ever had to perform."

He said the attempt was made even harder when a P&O container ship came alongside the yacht to provide shelter but was blown into the smaller vessel. "It was like a moving cliff. The yacht slid down the side of the ship and was actually blown under its bow," he said.

"We ended up scraping down the side, and we were within inches of jumping for our lives."

He said Mrs Newman was taken off first because she had been desperately seasick for days. By the time the helicopter returned for Daniel, most of the yacht's equipment was broken. "Once the boy was winched into the helicopter he seemed pretty happy, and gave a big grin," he said.

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Yard starts Secrets Act inquiry on ex-MI5 man

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

SCOTLAND Yard's Special Branch has begun a criminal investigation into a possible breach of the Official Secrets Act by David Shayler, the former MI5 officer.

The investigation which was instigated by the police, followed Mr Shayler's claims about past telephone-tapping and bugging operations against individuals, including Peter Mandelson, now the Minister Without Portfolio. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, was also monitored by MI5 when he was President of the National Union of Students in the 1970s, Mr Shayler said.

Yesterday Mr Straw had a visit from Stephen Lander, the Director-General of MI5, who presented him with a report on Mr Shayler's allegations. The meeting was "amicable".

Mr Shayler is currently thought to be abroad, but Special Branch expects to interview him at some stage. Once a police investigation is complete, the matter will be handed over to the Crown Prosecution Service. As the inquiry involves the Official Secrets Act, John Morris, Attorney General, will make the final decision on whether to press charges. A conviction under the Official Secrets Act on a charge of unauthorised disclosure of information can lead to two years' imprisonment, a fine or both.

Mr Shayler's first revelations were made in a bylined article in *The Mail on Sunday*. He was also interviewed on BBC *Newsnight* in which he claimed he had been employed to check on senior Labour politicians who might have become ministers if Neil Kinnock's party won the 1992 general election.

He claimed MI5 had tapped

Mr Mandelson's telephone in the 1970s because they feared his brief membership of the Young Communist League meant he might be a security threat.

Last night John Wadham, director of Liberty, the civil rights group, said he had contacted Mr Shayler and offered to help him fight any prosecution. He said: "It seems to us that the revelations are in the public interest and there should be no prosecution."

Alan Bell, the Liberal Democrat member of the parliamentary Intelligence and Security Committee, said MI5 appeared to have gathered intelligence too widely and on individuals who were not appropriate targets.

However, he said, things had changed since the 1970s and police forces appreciated MI5's assistance. "The priorities are now quite different - fighting terrorism, drugs trafficking and counter-intelligence," he said. But he acknowledged that scrutiny of the Security Service was still "in its infancy".

Leading article and Letters, page 17



LONG DISTANCE UP TO
CHEAPER THAN B.T.

THINK

Rows take shine off Labour's poll lead

By PETER RIDDELL

THE Government's recent squalls and squabbles have hit Labour's commanding poll lead. But the latest MORI poll for *The Times* still gives Tony Blair a far stronger position than any previous new Prime Minister as he returns to 10 Downing Street this morning for the first time in nearly four weeks.

The poll, undertaken last weekend, puts Labour on 54 per cent, down three points compared with the end of July.

TV NEWS	42.43
WIDEWORLD	22
NEWSNIGHT	22.44
DEBATES	17.27
SPORTS	19
PETER RIDDELL	32.35
ARTS	32.35
CHESS & BRIDGE	39
COURT & SOCIAL	38
TRAVEL NEWS	20.21
BODY & MIND	14
BOOKS	36.37

While the Tories at 28 per cent have gained five points. This compares with a 44 to 31 per cent gap on election day. The Liberal Democrats are unchanged on 15 per cent.

These changes are not surprising, following recent unfavourable stories, including the Millennium Dome and Montserrat.

But there is still little to worry Labour. Its poll lead is higher than it was before the election and is higher than the Tories ever had during their 18 years in office.

MORI interviewed a representative quota sample of 1,758 adults at 163 sampling points across Britain on a face-to-face basis on August 21 to 25. Data were weighted to match the profile of the population and voting intention figures excludes those who say they would not vote (7 per cent), are undecided (4 per cent) or who refused to say (1 per cent).

Back to earth, page 16

How would you vote if there were a general election tomorrow?

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British rail fares dearest in world

A survey shows that Britain's rail travellers pay the highest ticket prices in the world - almost three times the international average.

The report by a City bank, says that there has been a 12 per cent rise since privatisation began. The public funds handed to the privatised rail operators increased by £2 billion last year, a third more than was paid to BR in 1994.

Last night Les Rant, a professional sailing instructor and former neighbour of the Newman family, said he was surprised when he heard they had decided to sail around the world. "They didn't have very much experience, and I thought they were being a bit ambitious. But quite often people seem to buy a boat and just sail off," he said, adding: "But it's a solid old boat."

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CHILDREN IN NORTH KOREA ARE DYING

After three years of devastating floods, a generation of children in North Korea are on the brink of death. Malnourished and chronically hungry, they are desperate for food.

UNICEF is the leading children's agency working in North Korea. We are now distributing essential foods - such as high energy milk - and basic medicines. But as each day goes by, more and more children are in danger of dying.

We need your help to save children's lives. We rely totally on voluntary contributions. Please send a gift today.

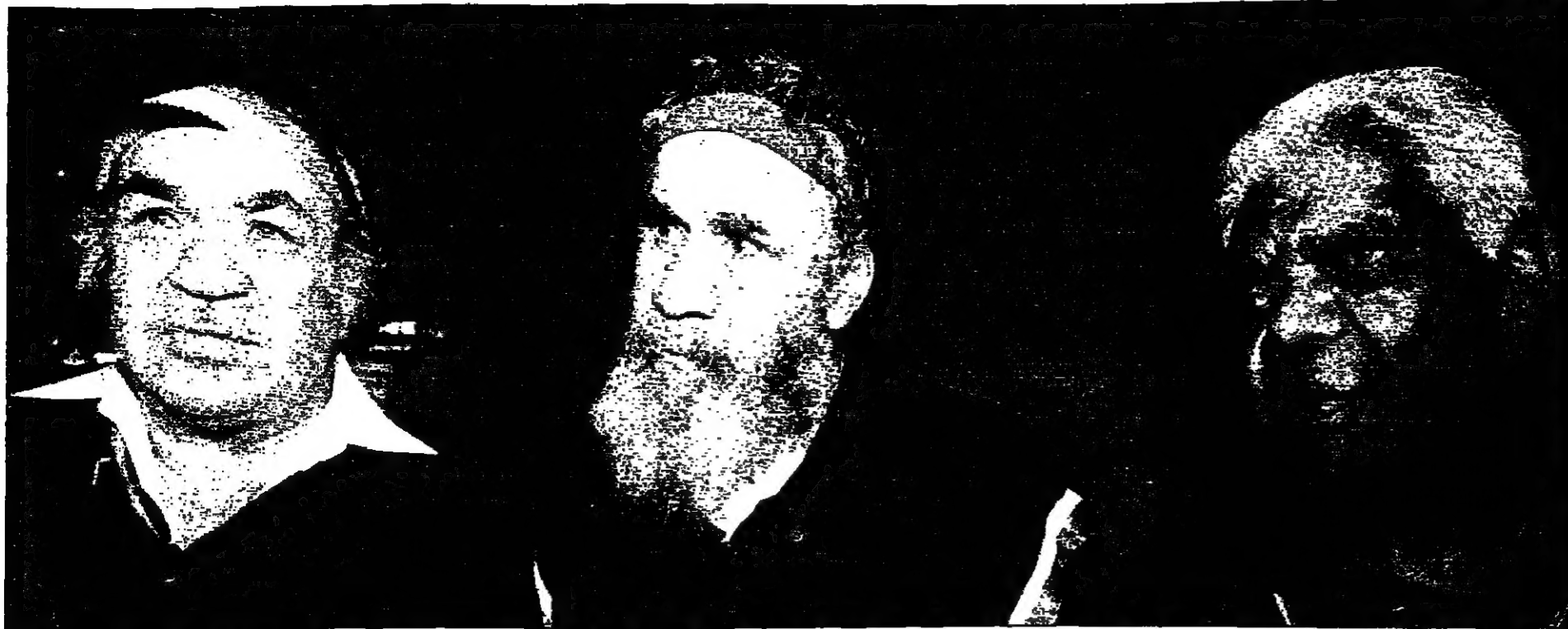
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To be included tick here ☐ Switch Issue

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Name _____
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unicef
United Nations Children's Fund



Three Aboriginal elders arrive at Heathrow to reclaim the skull of the 19th century Ballaruk leader Yagan, exhumed from a Liverpool cemetery. An injunction delaying removal was granted yesterday to Corrie Bodney, from Perth, who says he is Yagan's closest descendant yet was not asked for consent

Drop-out rate for GNVQs a cause for concern

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

FEWER than half the pupils hoping to complete the main vocational alternative to A levels this summer finished the course on time, according to a national breakdown of results published today.

Almost 200,000 young people took one of the three levels of General National Vocational Qualification this year, continuing the growth in non-academic study by teenagers. The 90,746 completing a course represented an 11 per cent increase on last year.

More than half of those intending to complete an advanced award, equivalent to two A levels, had failed to do so by July 31. The completion rate for younger pupils taking foundation and intermediate awards was lower still.

Students have five years in which to complete a GNVQ, and last year's completion rate increased by 10 per cent in 12 months following publication of the equivalent statistics. However, the high drop-out rate from the courses has attracted criticism and is being examined by ministers.

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, has promised to raise the quality of vocational qualifications. There are plans to introduce a compulsory final examination to ensure that assessment is as rigorous as that for academic courses. This year, 94 per cent of Advanced GNVQ candidates applying for higher education places received offers.

Christina Townsend, who chairs the Joint Council of National Vocational Awarding Bodies, said: "This year has seen another excellent set of results from students taking this qualification." She added that GNVQs were now a popular route into employment and increasing numbers were using them as a vehicle into higher education.

A LEVELS

Some editions of *The Times* last Saturday did not carry the A-level league table for state and independent schools. For those readers who missed the guide *The Times* will be publishing it in full again tomorrow.

Rail travel in Britain is most expensive in world

By FRASER NELSON
AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

RAIL passengers in Britain are paying the highest ticket prices in the world, according to an international survey by a leading City firm.

The cost of UK train travel is almost three times the world average after an average 12 per cent rise since the privatisation programme began, the survey claims. UBS, the City bank which compiled the report, calculates that the average cost of a standard class 120-mile journey is now £35.30, against £24 in 1994 — the last full year before privatisation.

At that time, Britain's railways ranked alongside those of Switzerland as the most expensive in the world. Now, the cost of making the same 120-mile journey in Britain has risen by 46 per cent while global prices have remained constant. In Switzerland the journey costs £22.98.

The increase in ticket prices comes as the public subsidy to the privatised rail operators increased to £2 billion last year, a third more than was paid to British Rail in 1994.

CAPITAL COSTS: FROM BURGERS TO HOTELS

	Time (in minutes) needed to work to buy...			Average cost of medium car	Eating out	Hotel stay
City	Burger	1kg Bread	1kg Rice	£	£	£
Amsterdam	19	13	14	10,500	18.10	183.00
Bangkok	39	33	22	13,500	18.00	127.00
Berlin	18	12	14	12,500	15.50	145.00
London	20	9	13	17,000	17.40	253.00
Moscow	104	59	108	5,217	31.00	208.00
New York	12	12	8	8,560	26.70	178.00
Paris	21	18	20	10,800	13.00	189.00
Shanghai	75	143	81	17,350	18.00	217.00
Tokyo	9	14	22	8,200	37.30	190.00
Warsaw	53	34	29	3,850	17.40	142.00

All the above costs were originally stated in US dollars. Converted at \$1.61/£1.

UBS's survey, which is produced every three years, showed that the cost of almost every mode of travelling in Britain was far higher than other European countries, and substantially higher than in the USA.

London's bus and Underground system is the fifth most expensive capital transport network in the world, with a six-mile journey costing an average £1.22. The same journey in Copenhagen would cost £1.55, 85p in Paris, 66p in Hong Kong and 19p in

Prague. The comparison comes as an embarrassment to John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, who last week mounted a campaign to persuade motorists to switch to public transport. Rail campaigners insisted last night that the high cost of public transport would frustrate government attempts to change attitudes to bus and train travel.

A 5 per cent fare rise announced before the first rail franchises were awarded at the end of 1995 was blamed

last night by railway pressure groups as the principal reason for the increase found by the UBS survey. They said further inflation-busting rises were likely. "The high cost of travel is the price passengers have had to pay for privatisation," Jonathan Bray, of the pressure group Save our Railways, said. "The public will find it hard to understand how British railways are more expensive than Switzerland."

Although Tory ministers prevented train companies introducing above-inflation fare

increases on commuter routes, opponents of privatisation claim that train operators are free to impose big increases on long-distance and off-peak journeys.

Train operators said last night that increasing competition on railways would hold down, and possibly even reduce prices over the next few years. A spokesman for Opra, the franchising director's office responsible for fares, said that it was "impossible to make sensible comparisons on the basis of a single journey".

The UBS report also claims that cars are more expensive in the UK than anywhere else outside the Far East. For a medium-sized vehicle, a London family can expect to pay £17,000 against the £10,800 paid by a Paris family and £9,550 paid in New York.

London hotels were also named as the most expensive in the world, charging £23 for one night in a twin first-class hotel room against the world average of £10.3. The capital's restaurants prove less expensive, charging the global average of £17.30 for a typical dinner of steak, two side dishes and dessert.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Unionists deride arms commission

Northern Ireland's Unionist leaders said yesterday that the international commission agreed by the British and Irish governments on Tuesday night had no power to force any paramilitary group to hand over weapons. They said that the two governments had set no timetable for disarmament, and that their failure to set up the commission until the last minute — and to have not yet found suitable people to serve on it — showed that they did not take the decommissioning issue seriously.

Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, said that no one could force the paramilitaries to hand over weapons. The commission was a sensible compromise that would facilitate disarmament if that became feasible during the negotiations, she said. Ray Burke, the Irish Foreign Minister, urged Unionists to take a leap of faith. Dr Mowlam is expected to announce this afternoon that she believes the IRA ceasefire, which was declared on July 20, to be "genuine in word and deed" and is therefore inviting Sinn Féin to the negotiations.

Violinist death 'suspect'

Detectives are investigating the death of a violinist with the Halle orchestra who was found collapsed with a head injury on the floor of his isolated mill cottage near Stockport. Jim Cropper, 55, was the longest-serving musician in the Manchester-based orchestra. He was taken to hospital by a paramedic crew from his home in Mill Brow, Marple Bridge. Greater Manchester Police later said that they were treating his death as suspicious. His sudden death follows a dispute between the dead man's wife Gina, a music teacher and local residents.

Fire death was arson

Detectives investigating the death in a fire of a nine-year-old girl fear she may have been the victim of a racist attack. Forty-five police officers are working around the clock to find witnesses to the arson which left Aam Khan dead and her teenage brother Majid in a critical condition in hospital. The murder inquiry was launched yesterday after forensic experts discovered petrol had been poured through the letter box of the house in Cowley, Oxford, at 3am on Tuesday.

The fire happened a week after two other arson attacks on houses in the area. Police are not linking the fires.

Royals block plans

Plans to build an outdoor activity centre on the doorstep of the Queen's Highland estate at Balmoral have been blocked following objections from the Royal family. The proposals would have seen a massive outdoor pursuits centre being developed beside the picturesque town of Ballater on Royal Deeside. Developers hoped to provide public access to quad biking, archery and laser clay pigeon shooting on a popular site at the Bridge of Gairn. But the Royal Family, who spend much of their summer vacation on the estate, objected to the development.

Cricketer 'died of fright'

A schoolboy cricketer may have died of fright during a school match after being hit by a ball which bounced off the artificial pitch, an inquest was told. Yasin Ghodwana, 12, was playing the last ball of a tied match for the Little Ilford Comprehensive School team on May 6. Pathologist Dr Michael Heath said: "Fright may have contributed to the adrenaline rush, along with the excitement of the match at a crucial point in the game. The Walthamstow inquest was adjourned for further tests to be carried out."

Princess tries to calm Tory anger

Continued from page 1 of the article, which was sent to Kensington Palace did not contain the alleged comments.

The Princess, who was divorced a year ago today, had agreed to co-operate with *Le Monde* after Mme Cojean asked her to take part in a series in which famous people talked about their favourite photographs.

Mme Cojean flew to London in early June. During a 30-minute conversation, Mme Cojean made notes in the presence of a member of the Princess's staff. The conversation was not tape-recorded.

The Princess eventually settled on a photograph of herself comforting a terminally ill Pakistani boy at a cancer hospital in Lahore.

A few weeks later, the Princess received 40 written questions from Mme Cojean which she understood were to form the basis of the interview. It is understood that the

Princess responded to about half.

Edwy Pene, *Le Monde's* Managing Editor, said he had complete confidence in Mme Cojean. "She speaks fluent English and is a complete professional. She would never have invented that," he said.

Yesterday *Le Monde* described the interview as the most substantial since her "televised confession to Dimbleby, in which the Princess revealed knowing about her husband's infidelities." It was, of course, the Prince of Wales who told Jonathan Dimbleby of marriage difficulties while the Princess later confessed her own infidelities to Martin Bashir.

Some Tory MPs demanded that the Princess should be reprimanded by Buckingham Palace David Wiltshire, MP for Spelthorne said: "I think it's really seriously dangerous to drag the Royal Family into party politics."

Livingstone attack on party shake-up

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR'S determination to put an end to party squabbles on his return from holiday has been immediately undermined by a strong attack from the Left on his plans to modernise Labour's organisation.

Ken Livingstone, the left-wing MP for Brent East, openly criticises the proposals to change the party conference and the structure of the national executive, claiming that they will suppress debate.

In an article in today's *New Statesman* Mr Livingstone says that Mr Blair's plans to reduce the policy making influence of the annual conference represents the biggest change to the party's constitution since 1918.

He argues that in future policy making will be in the hands of the Joint Policy Committee which is chaired by the prime minister and will include equal numbers of ministers, whom he appoints, and NEC members. It will make far harder for left-wingers like Dennis Skinner to get elected, he says.

learned, no amount of stage-management will succeed in suppressing the differences that will arise if the government's policies fail to meet the electorate's aspirations," says Mr Livingstone. He argues that if debate is no longer allowed at annual conferences it will emerge at fringe meetings or briefings by ministers.

Mr Livingstone claims that Mr Blair's plans to reduce the policy making influence of the annual conference represents the biggest change to the party's constitution since 1918.

He argues that in future policy making will be in the hands of the Joint Policy Committee which is chaired by the prime minister and will include equal numbers of ministers, whom he appoints, and NEC members. It will make far harder for left-wingers like Dennis Skinner to get elected, he says.

Dalyell unrepentant about role in devolution debate

By NICHOLAS WATT, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TAM DALYELL, the veteran Labour MP, infuriated party leaders yesterday by announcing that he would oppose the Scottish Secretary in a live television debate about devolution.

Donald Dewar will face a screen challenge from his party colleague, a staunch opponent of devolution, in a Scottish "Television debate" three days before the referendum on September 11.

Labour sources attempted yesterday to play down Mr Dalyell's role in the programme. But Jim Swan, secretary of Mr Dalyell's constituency association in Linlithgow, said it was "deeply hurtful" that the MP should join the opposition camp.

In the 90-minute debate Mr Dalyell will argue in favour of a no vote with Michael Ancram, the Tory spokesman on constitutional affairs. Mr

Dewar will argue for a yes vote with Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish National Party.

Mr Dalyell, who did seek approval for his television appearance from the party, said: "I am unrepentant because if Donald is going to appear with Alex Salmond

then any moral bounds that restrain me evaporate. I will tell Donald that he is wrong in saying that the parliament will strengthen the union and that Alex Salmond is right in saying that it will end up as a Scottish state separate from England."

Opinion polls indicate that Scots will vote overwhelmingly in favour of a parliament in Edinburgh. However, many Labour supporters have said that they will vote no to a second question asking whether the parliament should have tax-varying powers.

The Conservatives will step up their "no" campaign next week when William Hague, the party leader, visits Scotland on Monday. Tony Blair will visit at the end of the week. Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, will start a two-day visit to Scotland today.

Dalyell: "unrepentant"

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NEWS IN BRIEF
Unionists deride
arms commission

Unionists in Northern Ireland have derided the Commission for the Reduction of Armaments (CORA) as a "puppet" of the British government. The commission, set up to oversee the disarmament of paramilitary groups, has been criticised for its perceived bias towards the British side.

Violinist death 'suspect'

The death of a young violinist in a London hotel was suspected to be a suicide. The victim, a 25-year-old musician, was found in his room after a long absence. The police are currently investigating the circumstances of the death.

Fire death was arson

A fire that killed a woman in a London flat was ruled as arson. The victim, a 40-year-old woman, was found dead in her flat after a fire broke out. The police have charged a man with the crime.

Cricketer died of fright

A cricketer died of a heart attack while playing a match. The victim, a 45-year-old player, collapsed on the field during a game. The cause of death was determined to be a heart attack.

Unrepentant about
revolution debate

A man who was involved in a revolution debate remains unrepentant. The man, who was a prominent figure in the debate, has refused to apologise for his views.

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DEAL

Plagiarism claim leaves Celtic poets lost for words

ALLEGATIONS that an award-winning Scottish writer had been "blatantly plagiarised" by a Cornish poet yesterday provoked a literary clash that stretched the length of the country.

Derick Thomson, Emeritus Professor of Celtic at Glasgow University, is considering legal action over the "remarkable similarities" between his work and that of Alan Kent in an anthology titled *Modern Cornish Poets*.

The similarities were drawn to Mr Thomson's attention after one of Mr Kent's poems was published in a national newspaper. Apart from minor changes to relocate the poems to Cornwall the work was virtually identical to one in his bilingual collection, *Bramble of Hope*, published in 1991.

On *Glasgow Streets* begins: When I hear/Glasgow waitresses/talking earnestly/Boswell Street begins. When I hear/seasonal Truro waitresses/talking earnestly. Another poem from *Bramble of Hope*, called *Memory*.

Literature lovers
may find that
Cornishman's
work is familiar,
reports Simon
de Bruxelles

starts: On a good day/you would remember us/the rabbit John brought home that year. A poem, also called *Memory*, published under Mr Kent's name in *Modern Cornish Poets*, begins: On a good day/you would remember us/the mackerel Sean brought home that year.

Mr Thomson, 76, said he was surprised by how closely Mr Kent's poems resembled his: "You would expect a plagiarist to play about with things a bit more."

Jamie Byng, of Mr Thomson's publisher, Canongate Books, said: "The plagiarist is so amateurish it's almost laughable. It is absolutely blatant, he has just substituted Cornish place names for Scottish ones. There is no question that he has stolen these poems and we are taking legal advice."

"So far we have recognised three poems in *Modern Cornish Poets* but we are awaiting a copy of book and Mr Kent's other work to establish whether there are more."

Modern Cornish Poets, a collection of the work of Mr Kent, Bert Biscoe and Pol Hodge, was published in 1995, four years after *Bramble of Hope*.

One Cornish reviewer hailed Mr Kent, 30, a comprehensive school teacher from Truro, for "fresh-minded and glittering quality". He and his fellow poets, who formed themselves into a movement called Modern Cornish Poets, have given public readings.

They reject "cultural imperialism", support Cornish independence, and, according to the foreword, reject mainstream English literature.

Mr Biscoe and Mr Hodge said last night that they felt "deeply shocked and betrayed" by the allegations against their collaborator. In a statement Mr Biscoe said: "Plagiarism is completely unacceptable. It brings the integrity of the whole creative community into disrepute."

ALONG THE SAME LINES

On *Glasgow Streets* by Derick Thomson

When I hear/Glasgow waitresses/talking earnestly/about Perry Como or Starkey and Hinch, or singing a song by John Lennon. I remember that Wallace is out the window, and Alasdair Mac Colla at the mill of Gormac-na-Ga, and my country, for lack of will has gone to hell.

Boswell Street by Alan Kent

When I hear/seasonal Truro waitresses/talking earnestly/about Neighbours or Mel Gibson or singing the number one, I remember that Flannan is just out of the window, and Joseph is at St Keverne, yet my country, for lack of will has gone to hell.

Portrait of the artist as a young monkey

By Nigel Hawkes
SCIENCE EDITOR

CAPUCHIN monkeys enjoy nothing more than to model clay into shapes and decorate it with paint and leaves. American researchers have found.



Apeing art clever
Capuchin monkey

The results are unlikely to win any prizes, although these days you can never tell. It may not be art, but the monkeys evidently know what they like.

Ten captive Capuchin monkeys were given the raw materials for self-expression by Gregory Westergard and Stephen Suomi from the US National Institutes of Health.

They were provided with lumps of clay, stones, tempera paint and leaves, while the researchers sat back to watch. The Capuchins spent up to 30 minutes reshaping the clay with their hands and decorating it with the paint and leaves.

Dr Westergard told *New Scientist*: "They are very focused when they are making them."

The researchers say that on standard educational scales, the Capuchins resemble human children aged about 18 to 24 months. Just like infants, they abandon what they have made as soon as they have finished and some of the

monkeys were keener than others. Dr Westergard believes that captivity may have liberated in the monkeys a talent for art. Because they do not have to forage for food and defend themselves against predators, they seek out other activities.

"Art doesn't happen unless you are smart," Dr Westergard says. "I think such expressions are the inevitable consequences of an intelligent but restless mind." He suggests that the monkeys' inventive instincts may mirror the way that artistic skills developed in humans.

In human beings, art did not develop until the emergence of *Homo sapiens* about 40,000 years ago. Neanderthal Man, who had a large brain and was certainly a more capable primate than a Capuchin monkey, never developed art, although he was a tool-maker.

Husband who snapped told to leave home

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

A DEPUTY headmaster who temporarily lost control and pushed his wife against a door after she confessed to an affair with one of his "best friends" was ordered yesterday to give up his home to her.

Despite expressing sympathy for the man's plight, two Court of Appeal judges yesterday refused to overturn an earlier ruling ordering the husband, out of the family home, although they said that his estranged wife had "created the situation".

The husband, from the Portsmouth area, had vowed not to harm his wife again and had offered to sleep in a separate room and stay out of the main part of the house.

After dismissing his appeal, Lady Justice Butler-Sloss and Lord Justice Phillips gave him until noon on September 6 to leave so that his wife and their three children, aged nine, seven and five, and who are currently living in a women's refuge, can move back in.

In June this year the wife confessed that she had had a brief affair with a family friend. Her husband later admitted that he had reacted badly over the following three

or four days, pushing her against the door once and gripping her wrists hard enough to leave a mark on two other occasions.

But he was stunned when his wife took the children and fled, claiming she was too frightened to return while he was in their home. In July she won a ruling from Portsmouth County Court that her husband should leave the house by August 8 despite his promise not to harm her. But the order was stayed when the husband applied for leave to appeal against the decision.

Lady Justice Butler-Sloss said: "Members of the public might be forgiven for thinking that when a man finds his wife has committed adultery with one of his best friends and she tells it to him his reaction is likely to be uncontrolled."

But to have been violent on three occasions had been "over the top", and although she had "no doubt" that the husband's promise not to harm his wife was genuine, to allow them to live under the same roof would create a situation "fraught with emotional turmoil" leading to the risk of further violence.

£20,000 for mother refused a job-share

By Kathryn Knight

A WOMAN who was refused a job-share when she returned from maternity leave has been awarded £20,000 for sex discrimination. Janet Schofield, 36, was told that it was not feasible for two people to share a £40,000-a-year post as marketing manager, although many were able to divide jobs at more junior levels.

Ms Schofield worked for the Zurich insurance company at their Portsmouth office. After a claim at an industrial tribunal, she has won an out-of-court settlement and Zurich has agreed to review its job-share policy.

Before returning from maternity leave, she had applied with another manager to job-share, but was turned down. She wrote to the company saying she felt she had been constructively dismissed. She is now a self-employed marketing consultant.

Yesterday, at her home in Winchester, she said: "It was told that I had to be committed to the company for seven days a week, which made me angry."

"It was a shame because Zurich work very hard on equal opportunities at most levels."



Ouch: Leanne Wickham is reassured by an instructor as she lies in pain after falling badly during training

Downfall of a showcase soldier

By Joanna Bale

IT WAS meant to be a demonstration of the new, kinder Army training methods designed to lure modern teenagers. Then one woman's downfall demonstrated that a soldier's life can still be pretty tough.

Just as Dr John Reid, the Armed Forces Minister, was touring the Training Regiment at Pirbright, Surrey, Leanne Wickham fell heavily while diving head first between tapes onto a mat during an exercise. She hurt her shoulder and cried

out in pain. The teenage recruit was reassured by her instructor. An Army spokesman said: "She is having X-rays but we think it is just a muscle strain."

Dr Reid had been launching the new Army Training and Recruitment Agency, to try to boost falling recruitment by doing away with the traditional "bullying and bawling" approach of sergeant majors. He rejected "ill-informed comment" that the changes were a soft option, although courses had to be longer to

enable today's recruits to achieve required standards. He said: "This approach is all about modernising, not mollycoddling. It is not about turning Sergeant Majors into social workers."

Drill Sergeant Allan Gardner said that the new generation of recruits started at a disadvantage from spending too much time playing computer games and watching television. He added: "Many schools these days do very little sport, so we have to allow for it. The course is longer — but we get the same result in the end."

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Millennium blights prices in Greenwich

Areas as diverse as Hartlepool, Hampshire and Staffordshire have shown higher price increases than in Greater London, indicating that the recovery has taken a firm hold in more than just the South East. Overall, house prices have risen by 8.9 per cent in England and Wales in a year.

Figures show that the average price in Greater London was 12.8 per cent higher in April to June this year than

Thamesmead as well as Woolwich and these less sought after areas affected average prices," he said. He estimated that, although a two-bedroom house bordering Greenwich Park might cost £150,000, a similar property in Charlton — nearer the dome site — might be worth only half as much.

Average prices have fallen in only two boroughs. Kingston upon Thames has dropped from £108,747 to £105,601 (down 2.9 per cent) and Greenwich has dropped from £79,718 to £79,329 (down 0.5 per cent). Local agents blame the prospect of prolonged disruption while the Millennium dome is built.

Outside London, of the 78 areas for which comparative figures were available, just seven, including Wrexham, Durham, Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil, suffered falls in property prices.

BY DANIEL MCGROBY

Steve Rogers and his daughter, Amy, yesterday. He tried to resuscitate the children

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

Service said that no complaints about prostitution among prisoners had been made to Ron Tasker, the governor.

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

a review of the businesses, which are trading as normal. We have already had several expressions of interest."

BY MICHAEL EVANS
REFERENCE CORRESPONDENT

Army chiefs are taking legal advice on what action to take. The spokesman said: "There is no set penalty for writing a book or being rude about the Army. This is a pretty broad-shouldered organisation."

MAGAZINE

Princess's dress designer faces failure of business

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

ELIZABETH EMANUEL, the designer who made the wedding gown of Diana, Princess of Wales, said yesterday that her business was now in collapse after her major backer went into administration with debts of £40 million.

Only a year ago, Ms Emanuel, 44, opened a showpiece bridal store in the West End. Yesterday she was desperately trying to find a new financial backer to secure the future of her 14 staff.

"I have sunk everything into this company, all my money, my soul, my name, my brand. I really believe in it," she said. "I cannot believe this is happening. It is devastating."

Ms Emanuel had gone into business with Hamlet, a clothing importer, in April last year when she revealed plans for a new store to show the work from her design studio. The firm took a 48 per cent stake in her business, investing £500,000 with the promise that if it did not want to invest more, it would find a third party prepared to put more money in, she said.

She learnt about Hamlet's collapse on her return from America, where she was selling her spring and summer collection, a few days ago. "We had no warning at all it was going to collapse. One moment they were fully supporting, the next they had the administrators in," she said.

"We knew there was something wrong when we got back from the States and no one returned our calls. We literally could not get hold of anyone."

"The problem is that although the company is doing incredibly well, we are still totally dependent on Hamlet because they've been putting the money in, as the business is only starting out."

Ms Emanuel was formerly one half of the most famous design partnership of the 1980s. She met her former husband, David, in 1975 when they were fashion students

and married him the same year.

Funding from Ms Emanuel's father meant that the couple could immediately open their own couture shop in Mayfair, but their most famous moment came when Lady Diana Spencer chose them to design her wedding gown in 1981.

Business boomed. Then in 1990 they announced they were to separate, with Ms Emanuel continuing to design under the Emanuel label.

Last night the future of both the design studio and the shop were in the balance. "I joined up with them because they had a £200 million turnover and were a healthy company," Ms Emanuel said. "I can only hope we can be saved."

Coopers & Lybrand, the accountants, which has been appointed administrator to Hamlet, said share dealings in the east London company, which made an £8 million profit last year, were suspended last week. Chris Hughes, joint administrator, said that Hamlet's collapse was due to management problems and the company overstretching itself financially. However, he said there was still hope for Ms Emanuel.

"We are actively completing a review of the businesses, which are trading as normal. We have already had several expressions of interest."



Emanuel: devastated by collapse of major backer

Class warrior defies the Army

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

ARMY chiefs were furious yesterday after an officer suspended for writing an article about class in the service spoke out again when he was ordered not to return to work.

Major Eric Joyce, a staff officer in the Adjutant General's Corps, said he was expecting to return to his duties after being suspended for two weeks for writing an article for the Fabian Society saying that the Army was divided by a

received a letter informing him that his suspension remained in place and he was to stay at home.

Major Joyce, based at Apurton, Wiltshire, said: "It's effectively an indefinite suspension and I've not been given any explanation why they've extended it. I'm very disappointed that they think stalling will put the issue out of the public eye. I agreed not to speak out until I went back but they could keep me out forever. I still do not believe I did anything wrong."

an angry response from Army chiefs. One source described senior officers as "hopping mad". A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence said: "His letter said he should not be speaking to the press. Now that he is, it's up to management to decide what to do about that. He probably will be sent for fairly soon."

Army chiefs are taking legal advice on what action to take. The spokesman said: "There is no set penalty for writing a book or being rude about the Army. This is a pretty broad-

**Saturday in
THE TIMES**

**Million
dollar
revenge**



**The wife
who sued
the other
woman**

MAGAZINE



The Spice Girls: "the advantage with them," George Harrison said, "is that you can watch them with the sound off"

Beatle scorns 'boring' modern pop groups

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE former Beatle George Harrison has launched a vitriolic attack on modern British pop bands, describing groups such as U2, Texas and Oasis as "boring" and "boring".

In an interview with the French newspaper *Le Figaro* published yesterday, Harrison, 54, lambasts the egotism of modern pop stars, the commercialism of the music industry and the power of record companies.

The music of Oasis, U2 and Texas is "boring" and "not very interesting", he told his interviewer, Jen-Luc Wacht-Hausen. "It's alright if you're 14 years old. I prefer to listen to [Bob] Dylan," he said.

"One thing irritates me about current music: everything is based on ego. Look at a group like U2-Bono and his band are so egocentric. It's horrible... the more you shout, the higher you jump, the bigger your hat, the more people listen to your music."

"It's like that today in the recording industry. Whatever you play, the most important thing is to sell and make money. It's got nothing to do with talent."

Harrison conceded that the Beatles may have had their fair share of hype but he added: "Everything has got out of proportion today with the power of the record companies, the media, television, radio... it's staggering."

Harrison's broadside comes less than a year after he

criticised Liam Gallagher of the Beatles-inspired Oasis, pointing out that the group would be better off and more in tune without "the silly one".

"In contrast to modern British groups," Harrison maintained, "the Beatles' music appealed to different generations and continued to attract new fans aged 7 to 77."

"Today, adolescents and even children still adore *Yellow Submarine*. That gives me comfort and proves that the band will last forever," he said. "Will U2 be remembered in 30 years? And the Spice Girls? I doubt it," he added.

Asked what he would do if he was aged 20 today, Harrison joked: "I would certainly produce the Spice Girls. If I knew at 20 what I know now, it would be fabulous. I would certainly retire before becoming famous."

The interview suggests that Harrison's philosophy, and perhaps his musical tastes, have changed little since the 1970s.

He described his forthcoming album with Ravi Shankar, the sitar player, as a small contribution to peace. "That is the subject of this album: love and peace."

Harrison said he was still writing songs and might make a new album in the winter. "I would really like to record again with the Travelling Wilburys — alas, without Roy Orbison — but Bob Dylan is ill. I must see him soon."

His recipe for understanding the world, achieving inner peace and presumably learning to tolerate the Spice Girls,

remains unchanged. "My advice is to plunge into meditation which gives the keys, making God's signs comprehensible in order to open the door to understanding. To pass from ignorance to knowledge, from the darkness into light."

Dylan and the Pope, page 15

Everything is based on ego.

Whatever you play, the most important thing is to sell and make money. It's got nothing to do with talent.



George Harrison, left, said the music of Oasis, above, and Texas, below, was "boring" and that Oasis would be better off without Liam Gallagher



Prisoner selling sex in jail, inspection team told

Designer business



Father's son Julian and Cynthia after Lennon's death

Lennon's letter of love for son

BY JOHN SHAW

THE guilt and anguish of John Lennon over his separation from his young son Julian are disclosed in a letter written to his wife, Cynthia, in 1965.

Lennon, who was shot dead outside his New York flat when Julian was aged 17, admits he was a "thoughtless bastard" who did not pay enough attention to the two-year-old boy, and ends: "I feel like crying."

The two-page letter helps to explain the view that the singer, divorced by Cynthia in 1968 because of his adultery with Yoko Ono, had less than fatherly instincts for his first son, born on April 8, 1963.

In faded black ink it is the only remaining portion of a six-page letter but it is still forecast to make up to £17,000 in a Sotheby's rock sale in London on September 17.

It was written when the Beatles were enjoying a break at their hideaway mansion in Benedict Canyon, Hollywood, during a pressured US tour.

Lennon's thoughts turned to home and he reflected on

being an absent father to Julian, telling his wife: "I really miss him as a person now... he's not so much 'the baby' or 'my baby' anymore. He's a real living part of me now — you know, he's Julian and everything."

"I can't wait to see him, I miss him more than I've ever done before — I think it has been a slow process my feelings like a real father."

"I spend hours in dressing rooms thinking about the times I've wasted not being with him — and playing with him — you know, I keep thinking of those stupid bastard times when I keep reading bloody newspapers whilst he's in the room with me. I've decided it's ALL WRONG!"

He concludes: "I'll go now because I'm bringing myself down thinking what a thoughtless bastard I seem to be... I really feel like crying."

The letter goes under the hammer with a postscript from Cynthia, who writes: "This letter gives a true insight into the way John felt about his son... A perfect example of the real John Lennon, 1965."

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the Army

The wife who sued the other woman

14
Ju

The option is being offered to drivers where police consider there is evidence to justify a prosecution. If successful, the scheme — which

A letter sent to one motorist by Belgravia police read: "Full attendance on the course and participation in all its components would remove the need to involve you in court proceedings, but failure fully

The letter insists that drivers are not under any pressure to go on the course. It continues: "I must point out that this is not an ultimatum and if you feel that you were in no way to blame or at fault, then you should decline this invitation. Your file would then be referred to the Crown Prosecution Service."

Marc Maitland, a barrister whose client was offered the course as an option to prosecution, said he had been surprised and concerned to hear of the scheme. "I find it worrying that someone can be asked to pay a commercial organisation, whose relationship with the police is unknown, on the basis of which police make a decision as to whether or not to prosecute." His client refused the offer and denied

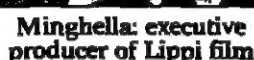
Driving without due care and attention can carry a fine of up to a maximum £2,500 and between three and nine points on a licence or possible disqualification.

Richard Penny, an administra-

It was too soon to judge the success of the scheme, he added, although just under half those offered the course at Belgravia had taken up the offer. "Some are put off by the £120 cost, and others say they are innocent. If that is the case, they they should decline the offer and go to court to let the magistrates decide."

**FROM DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT
IN VENICE**

Ms Choa said that the screenplay, which has not yet



"This is an extraordinary love story," she added.

Such was his reputation that Lippi was offered a dispensation from the Pope to marry Lucrezia. But Vasari explains that the offer was refused because "He wanted

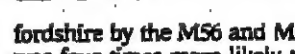
Modern artists, too, are attracting film-makers. Shooting began earlier this year on John Maybury's film about Francis Bacon, starring Derek Jacobi. It is co-produced by the BBC and the British Film Institute. Michelle Pfeiffer is tipped to play Georgia O'Keeffe and Keanu Reeves is considering playing Robert Mapplethorpe, the controversial photographer.

Film reviews, page 33



BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

The AA's statistical exercise, designed to highlight problem areas, showed big differences in gridlock rates on routes between the same two points. A family travelling from Manchester to the Alton Towers pleasure park in Staf-



Although the AA has carried out similar surveys for internal use, yesterday's figures were the first the motoring organisation has published. They are intended to concentrate attention on ways of avoiding congestion.

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

High-speed renting

The accident happened about 7pm on Tuesday when the street and pavements were busy. Police have said they have already spoken to a number of witnesses. Lee Ali, 30, who was watching television when he heard a

NOTICE OF
OF INTER

By Robin Young

Pears is now hoping that its soap will appeal to a wider audience than mothers with angelic children.

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Correspondent

Hire companies are likely to judge customers on credit-worthiness and whether their licence is clean: drink-drivers would most often not be allowed to hire, although drivers with up to nine speeding points would. Most de-

Guidelines issued by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders say that dealers should check licences of prospective customers. It also wants extra training for salesmen, which includes grading them into "power ratings" so that they earn the right to demonstrate the highest-performance cars.

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Scotland is shaken by second earthquake

Central Scotland was shaken by a small earthquake, measuring 2.4 on the Richter scale, centred near Doune, it prompted hundreds of calls to police but caused no damage, although a bison was born three weeks prematurely at Blair Drummond Safari Park near Stirling. The tremor on Tuesday evening was Scotland's second in a month. The British Geological Survey said: "There are lots of faults through Britain. There is no definite pattern of seismic activity."

Storm kills camel

A camel died at Knowsley Safari Park, Merseyside, when it was struck by lightning between its humps. The death of the unnamed seven-year-old bull was seen by visitors driving by during a storm.

Hide warrant

Magistrates in Highgate, North London, issued a warrant for the arrest of the World Boxing Organisation heavyweight champion Herbie Hide after he failed to appear in court on a kidnapping charge.

Arson by fireman

A retained firefighter set a car alight, then helped to extinguish it. John David, 28, from New Milton, Hampshire, was ordered to do 200 hours community service and pay £150 compensation for arson by Southampton Crown Court.

Winning smile

Ken Tarrant, 52, from Middleton, Manchester, who won £901,000 on the Lottery the day after losing his job as a road worker, said his first priority was a new set of teeth and a holiday with his wife, Chris, 51. Results, page 22

Drinking-up time

A former GI has returned to the Bell Hotel in Shepton Mallet, Somerset, for a free pint. Ken Hoover, 74, from Pennsylvania, had left one unfinished 53 years ago when he was ordered back to camp for D-Day.



Happy ending for the Normans: the recreated final panel shows William receiving the surrender of the Saxon nobles, followed by his coronation in December 1066

Stitches in time complete the Conqueror's big picture

By Russell Jenkins

THE last ending to one of history's masterpieces has been sewn up at last. A determined embroiderer expert has recreated the final panel of the Bayeux Tapestry, showing William the Conqueror being crowned King. Jan Messent, 60, spent 18 painstaking months researching the background and using materials employed at the time, such as fine lambswool yarn and plant dyes. Yesterday at Thirsk, North Yorkshire, she said: "My ultimate ambition is to see it exhibited alongside the tapestry in Normandy but the French might not take kindly to an English woman finishing their treasure."

The original tapestry —

23ft long and 19½ft wide — was commissioned in England and tells the story of the Norman invasion in 1066 in eight linen panels. The surviving part hangs in Bayeux, Normandy, but ends abruptly in a ragged edge with the English flight from the Battle of Hastings. Ms Messent's creation, which would fit perfectly on the end, is valued at £15,000, would fit perfectly on the end.

signify the removal of the dead from battlefield. Ms Messent, a former art teacher, took up embroidery 25 years ago and now writes and lectures on the subject. Her research has led her to reject historians' criticisms of the original work. "The mistakes they point out, such as overlaps, are perfectly understandable to me," she said. "The panels are too wide to complete at one sitting, the embroiderer would keep swapping sides to complete the work. Often they would be stitching upside down."



Jan Messent and a detail from the original, showing the defeated Harold pulling an arrow from his eye



Two pilots cleared over girl in cockpit

By a Staff Reporter

TWO British Airways pilots who were suspended after a five-year-old girl was seen in the cockpit of a London-bound jet have been cleared of any wrongdoing. It was announced yesterday.

Captain Phil Higgin and his co-pilot underwent an investigation after claims that Emily Pickersgill pushed buttons on the flight deck of a Boeing 757. "The two pilots have been cleared of allegations that they breached company safety regulations," BA said.

The airline was satisfied that passengers and the aircraft were not in danger at any time on the August 16 flight from Nice and said the pilots, both senior and experienced members of staff, were returning to duty immediately. BA said Emily's father, Keith Pickersgill, from Leeds, had given evidence at the inquiry. A spokeswoman said: "The pilots were merely responding to the request from one of our younger travellers who, given the right conditions, are always welcome on the flight deck."

BA passenger jets within 400ft of collision over Kent

Nigel Hawkes

reports on a near miss caused by a controller telling the wrong plane to descend

TWO British Airways jets carrying more than 300 passengers came within 400ft of a mid-air collision over Kent when an air traffic controller told the wrong aircraft to descend.

Only a combination of good visibility and the quick reactions of one of the pilots prevented a catastrophe at well over 200mph. The pilot told a formal inquiry into the incident that had his Boeing 757 been fitted with an anti-collision device, known as TCAS, he would not have begun the descent.

The investigation disclosed that there were so many aircraft "stacking" over Kent that the displays showing which aircraft was which on the controller's radar screen were overlapping. As a result, the Civil Aviation Authority is urgently investigating improvements to the system to prevent overlapping.

Many of the aircraft also had similar call signs; the two involved in the near miss were of the same type, were operated by the same company and therefore had the same prefix, and one of the last three numbers was the same.

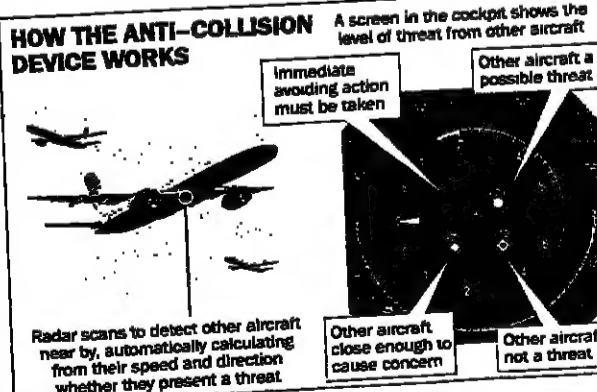
The report by the CAA's Joint Airprox Working Group said: "With the potential problems of call sign confusion probably uppermost in the controller's mind, members wondered whether these similarities might have led to the controller giving the erroneous instruction."

The incident happened over Biggin Hill during the morning "rush" on November 22 last year. The Boeing 757s — one from Paris Orly with 165 passengers and seven crew on board, the other from Geneva with more than 150 passengers and seven crew — were circling over northern Kent waiting for clearance to

land at Heathrow. The Paris jet was at 11,000ft, his colleague returning from Geneva was immediately below him at 10,000ft.

The pilot of the Paris jet was instructed to descend to 9,000ft, but as he dropped through 10,600ft his co-pilot saw the other 757 below him in a turn. The Paris pilot had descended to 10,400ft before he was able to turn and climb to safety. The report stated he "felt there had been a high risk of collision and that under instrument conditions a collision would have occurred."

The captain of the Geneva jet said that when he heard the controller tell another aircraft to descend to 9,000ft, he assumed he was talking to an aircraft miles away in another holding pattern. When the report said, delays were 15 to 20 minutes and given the number of aircraft in the vicinity, the air traffic control task "was complicated by the difficulties experienced with radar data block overlap and secondary radar garbling". Further problems were being caused by the potential for call sign confusion as two flights by an American carrier had been allocated the same call sign and two flights operated by a European carrier had very similar flight numbers.



Planes must have radar alert by 1999

By Our Air Correspondent

THE Traffic Alert and Collision Avoidance System — TCAS — must by law be fitted to all aircraft flying in Europe by the end of 1999. It has been mandatory for any airline flying to or within the United States since 1992.

British Airways said last night that half its fleet of 250 jets had been fitted with it. Work on the Boeing 757 fleet is about to begin at a cost of £3 million and it still has some aircraft on domestic or European routes waiting to have it fitted.

TCAS is a form of radar that sweeps the skies around the aircraft every second, displaying on a panel in front of the pilot any aircraft within range. A computer calculates

the other aircraft's path and, if the two appear to be converging or there is any potential danger, the display signs change colour, eventually turning red while a synthesised voice tells the pilot to take immediate evasive action.

The CAA resisted the introduction of TCAS for years, arguing that the crowded airways around British airports would produce endless false alarms and it would be ignored by pilots. But it is now widely agreed that the latest version of TCAS works very well in all conditions and pilots have expressed confidence in its ability to prevent mid-air collisions.

Don claims bullish advice landed him in trouble

By Daniel McGrory

WHEN a university lecturer set out to inspect a remote Scottish lighthouse as a possible site for oceanic research, he asked a farmer permission to cross his land — which contained a bull. According to the don, the farmer's parring advice was that if he found the bull blocking his progress, he should wave his arms and shout, and if that failed, give the beast "two short taps on the nose".

The bull did not get the message. Paul Fossket, 43, told the Court of Session in Edinburgh yesterday. Instead it charged him, striking him on the thigh and groin and hurling him over a wall into stinging nettles.

Mr Fossket, from Lowford, Hampshire, was launching a £50,000 damages action. He claims that the experience bruised more than his dignity, saying that the injuries forced him to give up his post at the Department of Oceanography at Southampton University. Lord Osborne, who heard preliminary legal argument in the case, ordered that there should be a full hearing. Last night the bull's owner, Graham McClymont, from

Drummore, Dumfries and Galloway, denied telling the researcher to "behave so stupidly". He said: "I certainly didn't tell the man to hit a bull on the nose."

Mr McClymont denies liability and blames Mr Fossket for inciting the bull. He insists that while he gave Mr Fossket permission to be on parts of his land near Crammug Head lighthouse four years ago, that did not include the area where the bull grazed.

Mr McClymont later disclosed that the main witness cannot be examined because he has long since been sent to slaughter.

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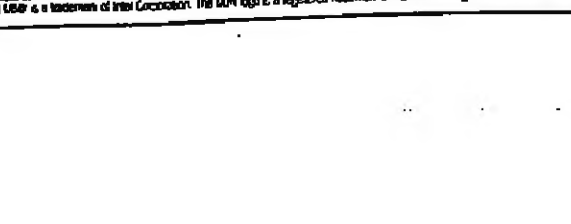
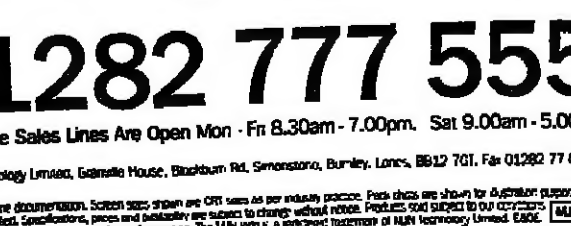
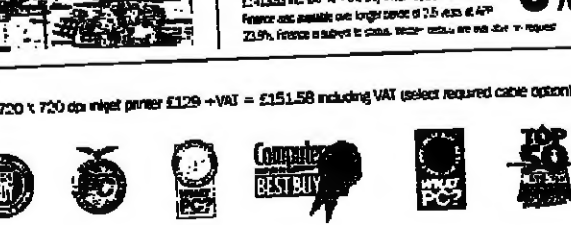
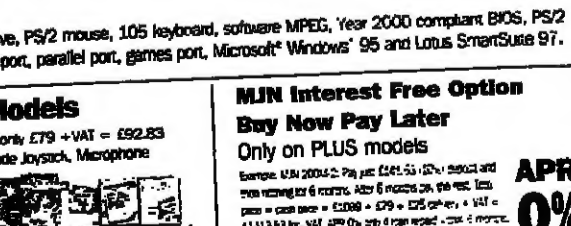
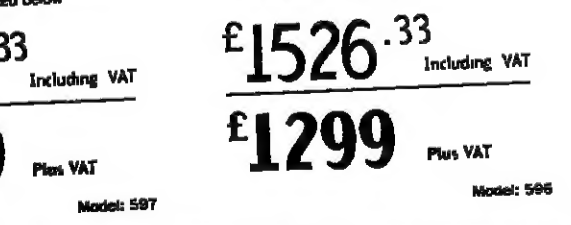
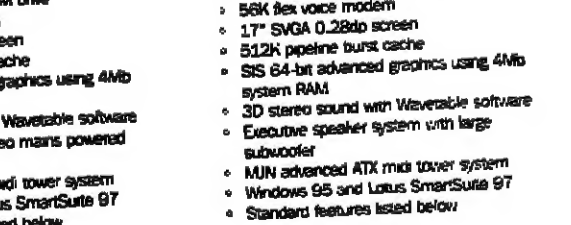
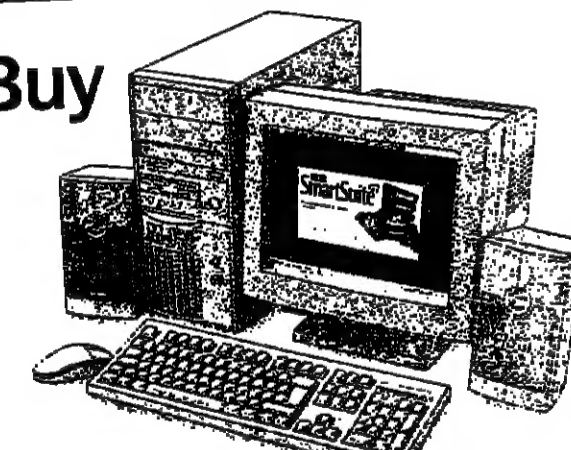
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Schoolchildren may lose their pets

The classroom guinea-pig faces a ban.

David Charter and Adrian Lee on why it is falling out of official favour

A BAN on school pets is being considered by education officials who believe that keeping classroom guinea pigs is cruel and out of date. School animals could be replaced with videos and CD-Roms of rabbits and mice in their natural environment, John Stodier, director of education for Aberdeen City Council, said.

Mr Stodier said that keeping pets in cages was immoral and sent the wrong message to children about animal welfare. "It sets a bad example which reinforces and perpetuates the belief that humans can imprison other species for their own gratification," he said.

"Conditions are far removed from the natural environment and the animals are subjected to noise and over-handling. Making arrangements for caring for animals at weekends and holidays always presents a problem for teachers, as does the potential financial implications where an animal becomes sick or injured."

It is believed to be the first time that an education authority has proposed a formal ban since the decline in school pets prompted by concern about neglect and disease. A survey of Aberdeen schools showed nine out of nearly fifty kept creatures including lizards, gerbils and tropical fish. The

ban will be debated next week but has the support of Jim Wyness, the education committee's Labour chairman.

"There is no learning to be made from the use of animals in schools," he said. "The idea of having what should be wild animals for fun is outdated now."

Animal welfare groups were yesterday divided over the proposed ban. The suggestion was condemned as extreme by the Federation of Zoos. Mary Rosevear, of the federation, said: "If children don't get close to animals at a young age and learn to respect them, it is very difficult to work on the adult."

Sarah Winfield, deputy manager at Vauxhall City Farm, central London, said: "If the right animals are kept — small, low-maintenance ones — I don't see any problems. The idea is to teach children to respect animals and understand that they have feelings too."

But the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals gave cautious support to a ban. "On balance, we would rather pets were not kept in schools," John Briggs, its deputy chief superintendent, said. "Our main concern is that animals are left untended over weekends. We believe they should be looked after every day. It is also important that



Shelley the sheep entertaining a Manchester infants' school. Some schools prefer farm trips and visits by animal specialists to keeping pets

animals are not handled too much and have rest periods."

The RSPCA prosecuted a school caretaker in Berkshire earlier this year for neglecting a school duck. She was given a conditional discharge by magistrates and resigned.

Since then the school has stopped keeping pets and relies on trips to farms and visits by animal specialists. When a rare birds' display was held, a falcon was brought in.

David Whitbread, education officer for the Local Gov-

ernment Association, said the growth of keeping pets in primary schools was linked with the move towards topic-based work in the late 1960s, and reached its heyday 25 years ago. "Not only did they help with biology but children

could write a poem or story about the rabbit. Some secondary schools, especially in rural areas, have a mini-farm."

Problems arose out of neglect of animals and the occasional break-ins when

they were killed by vandals. One family tried, unsuccessfully, to sue Herefordshire County Council when the school guinea pig they were looking after for the weekend escaped and chewed their new, full-length curtains.

Cot deaths rise renews pressure for research

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

COT deaths have risen for the first time in eight years, prompting fears that the big reduction achieved in the early 1990s may not be sustained.

In 1996 there were 499 cot deaths in Britain, up from 470 the year before, according to figures issued yesterday by the Office for National Statistics. The rise was concentrated in England and Wales, up from 410 to 441, and in Northern Ireland where provisional fig-

ures suggest a tripling from the five deaths in 1995. In Scotland, provisional figures showed a continued decline, from 49 to 43. The Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths said that it hoped the rise in deaths was a blip rather than the start of a trend. "While the rise is small and parents should not feel unduly panicked, every single baby's death is tragic," Joyce Epstein, secretary-general of the foundation, said.

"We don't know exactly how this has occurred. What is

clear is that further research is still needed to shed light on why babies die."

The latest figures are still far below those of the late 1980s, when there were more than 1,300 cot deaths a year. The reduction was attributed to campaigns to educate parents about risk factors, including advice to put babies to sleep on their back instead of their stomach. Although that appeared to have had a clear effect on the death rate, the cause of cot death remained unknown, the foundation said.

Vixen and Wild Brew tamed after report attacks alcopop marketing

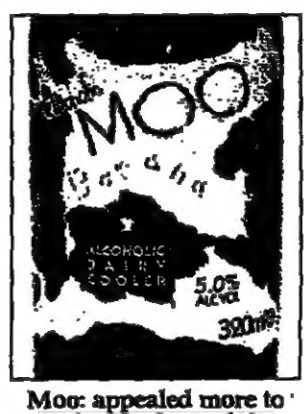
By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

FIVE drinks companies, including the Sainsbury's supermarket chain, have withdrawn alcopops after being criticised for targeting under 18s or linking packaging to drugs.

Another eight alcopops, including products from the supermarket group Asda and the brewers Bass and Whitbread, are to be repackaged after an investigation by the Portman Group, an organisation funded by drinks companies.

The Portman Group, set up to promote sensible drinking, today criticised Whitbread's Wild Brew for labelling that encourages irresponsible drinking. But it ruled that, although the label included a picture resembling a marijuana leaf, that did not infringe the code of practice.

One of the drinks to be given a new name is Moo, the alcoholic milk drink that was heavily criticised when it was



Moo: appealed more to under 18s than adults

launched. Thirteen out of 17 complaints made by members of the public, trading standards officers, the charity Alcohol Concern and the Health Education Authority, have been upheld by a panel who studied the marketing and packaging of alcopops.

The Portman Group hailed the action of the companies as evidence that the industry was able to regulate itself. Jean Cousins, director of the

group, said: "The willingness of companies to act unhesitatingly on breaches of our code of practice shows the industry is committed to cracking down on unacceptable marketing of alcoholic products."

The industry is to introduce a tighter code of practice from September 1 in an attempt to avoid government controls on alcopops.

The products being taken off the shelves include Allied Domecq's Barking Frog because the panel found the image of a frog on the label meant the drink was likely to appeal to under 18s; Beverage Brands' WKD Red because the letters WKD would be linked with the current slang usage of "wicked" and would appeal to under 18s; and because packaging involving a woman's body with a zip partly undone linked the drink with sexual prowess. Other drinks being dropped are Cot's Europe's Vixen because its name and the words "ignite your wild side" linked with an illustration of a

naked woman and lipstick kisses suggested sexual success; and Sainsbury's Alcoholic Lemon Drink because the panel found the cartoon on the bottle depicting a lemon as a fish would appeal to under 18s. It has already been withdrawn.

A fifth drink, The Split Drinks Company's Jammie Space Doubt, is to be withdrawn because its name was linked with drug use and would appeal to under 18s, the panel found. It said the name was intended to be a pun on the words "space out", meaning intoxicated by drugs.

The drinks that are to be renamed or repackaged after the Portman Group upheld complaints are Asda's Bite, which was criticised for emphasising its above average alcohol content of 5.1 per cent; Speciality Brands' Moo; Welsh Distillers' Raw Passion; Bass Brewers' Red; Intercontinental Brands' Super Milk; Whitbread's Wild Brew; Beverage Brands' WKD and Woody's.

'Herbal high' drugs to be banned

By RICHARD DUCE

DRUGS known as "herbal highs", which are sold as a natural alternative to Ecstasy and cannabis, are to be outlawed by the Government. The drugs, popular at nightclubs, raves and pop festivals, have been linked to at least 15 deaths in America.

Staff from the Medicines Control Agency (MCA) plan to target mail order firms and specialist suppliers known as "head shops" to stamp out the trade. Alan Milburn, the Health Minister, said yesterday: "These drugs imitate the effects of such widely known illegal drugs as cannabis or Ecstasy but claim to be without the legal or health risks. Yet these herbal high drugs are illegal, very dangerous, and can be killers."

To tackle the problem the Government is to enforce the Medicines Act 1968, which will make trading or manufacturing the drugs without a licence illegal. The MCA awards such licences only after extensive trials prove a product safe.

Herbal highs are marketed under such names as Druid's Fantasy, Skull Cap, Herbal Ecstasy, Purple and Road Runner. A typical advertisement reads: "An LSD-type experience", including "glitches, time distortion, perceptual change and brighter colours".

Ingredients include substances such as khat, yohimbe bark and its active ingredient yohimbe, ipomoea, and ephedra, which has the active ingredient ephedrine. The deaths in America have been associated with products containing ephedra.

According to the Government, khat, popular with immigrants from Africa and the Middle East, is known to cause a form of psychosis and yohimbe is potentially hazardous when used in conjunction with common drugs found in cough and cold remedies.

Dealers who try to promote the herbal highs as "safe" alternatives to mind-bending drugs were warned a year ago by the MCA to stop trading. They now face up to two years in jail for selling pills which, by mail order in youth magazines, cost between £3 and £5. Others are almost as expensive as controlled drugs: a substance known as "Car", said to have a similar effect to cocaine, retails at £55 a gram — £10 less than the real thing.

Mr Milburn said: "It is clear that some suppliers and retailers have cynically ignored the MCA and have gone back on their word. Direct action is the now the only option to protect the public."

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Unshapely potatoes blighted by stores

By MICHAEL HORNSEY

DEMAND for well-shaped, blemish-free potatoes in supermarkets is restricting the development of more disease-resistant varieties that require less pesticide, according to growers and breeders.

Supermarkets have increased their share of fresh potato sales from about 40 per cent to more than 60 per cent since 1992. They also have 80 per cent of the market for processed potato products, such as pre-cut chips.

Many of the popular varieties are prone to potato blight, which is at its worst for years because of the warm, humid weather. Potato breeders say supermarkets should use their influence to encourage more research into less disease-prone varieties.

Finlay Dale, a potato specialist at the Scottish Crop Research Institute, near Dundee, said: "The big supermarkets have a limited number of varieties that they are prepared to buy and sell, based partly on eating and cooking quality but also largely on such superficial traits as skin-finish and eye appeal."

"Many of these varieties, like Maris Piper, are very vulnerable to blight, which means that farmers are having to spray their potatoes up to 14 times in a season to grow a crop that supermarkets will accept."

David Sawday, spokesman for Tesco, said: "We recognise that genetics can bring advances in disease resistance but the consumer's judgement must remain paramount."

Jurassic Park in glorious colour

By NIGEL HAWKES

DINOSAURS may soon be revealed in their true colours by Australian scientists who have discovered the original pigmentation of a prehistoric fish.

Until now the skin colour of dinosaurs and other extinct species has been entirely conjectural.

Dr Andrew Parker of the Australian Museum in Sydney and his colleagues have found traces in ancient fossils of the cells that originally gave them their colour. Called chromatophores, they had been overlooked by earlier investigators, he believes, because they look so like other types of cell.

He studied an ancient fish, a heavily armed placoderm from the Devonian Period 370 million years ago. On the upper part of the body, New Scientist reports, he found red pigment granules inside the chromatophores, while the lower part had traces of the grooves that create the iridescent sheen of modern marine crustaceans.

He concludes that the placoderm was red on top and silvery underneath. Once he was able to recognise the structures he found them on a range of extinct creatures ranging from worms to fish.

Whether that will also prove true of dinosaurs has yet to be demonstrated but Dr Parker is hopeful. "We can finally accurately describe the colour of extinct animals rather than simply speculate by comparison with modern animals," he says.

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Herbal high drugs to be banned

med after marketing

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Austria 'sterilises mentally handicapped women'

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN BONN

AUSTRIAN politicians yesterday plunged into the heated European debate about eugenics, claiming that the country was still forcing mentally handicapped women to be sterilised.

Theresa Haidmayr, the Green spokeswoman, said that there were no legal obstructions in Austria to sterilising certain categories of patient. Some 70 per cent of mentally handicapped women had been treated in this way, she said, although the party admits there are no reliable statistics.

The comments came as both Switzerland and Norway admitted that they had, until the 1970s, also practised compulsory sterilisation on mentally handicapped or racially "unsuitable" men and women.

according to disclosures published yesterday. Swedish revelations that 60,000 people had to undergo compulsory sterilisation over 50 years have sent historians throughout Europe searching their national medical archives for evidence incriminating or clearing their own countries.

The Swiss case is regarded as important because the Nazis used 1928 sterilisation legislation from the French-speaking canton of Vaud to fashion their own 1934 laws.

Even Hitler requested a copy of the law from the canton and from the Government in Bern as a basis for Nazi Germany's own racist laws, said Hans Ulrich Jost, a Lausanne history professor.

Switzerland, still struggling with revelations that its banks profited from the Holocaust, was shocked by Professor Jost's documentary proof. He found one recommendation for sterilisation for a young woman, two months pregnant, because she was described as "feeble-minded, morally weak, idiotic and promiscuous".

But the deepest concern is in Scandinavia, because the evidence is clear that compulsory sterilisation was not merely part of the racist prewar climate but became a conscious feature of Social Democratic policy after the war.

Most of the victims seemed to have been drawn from socially deprived backgrounds or were exhibiting some form of mental illness. In some cases, hospital workers refused to carry out abortions unless the women agreed to be sterilised. Boys in reform schools were sterilised before going on summer work camps, so that they would not reproduce with socially "acceptable" Swedes.

But the sterilisation campaign also targeted racially "mixed" Swedes, including women from Gypsy families. It was this element — that the benign welfare state treasured by Swedes for more than 50 years could continue essentially national socialist eugenics — that has most alarmed Swedes and prompted questions about the internal controls within a welfare state system. A flood of compensation claims is now expected.

Race and rejects, page 16

WORLD SUMMARY

Olympic bombing threat

A GROUP calling itself "We Who Built Sweden" claimed responsibility yesterday for a powerful bomb explosion at a stadium in the western Swedish port of Gothenburg on Monday.

The group said that, if Stockholm is chosen for the month as the venue for the 2004 Olympic Games, Sweden should prepare for a campaign of guerrilla warfare. In a faxed statement the group said it was acting for a majority of Swedes who did not want the Olympics. "We are well organised and determined," (Reuters)

Bethlehem reopened

JERUSALEM: Israeli military authorities have taken what they describe as a "calculated risk" and lifted a 28-day internal closure of Bethlehem, which has been the scene of intense unrest (see page 10). The decision follows strong international pressure against the blockade, which has prevented Christian pilgrims visiting the birthplace of Jesus and severely disrupted the vital tourist industry.

Singer dies destitute

ATHENS: Sotiria Bellou, the folk singer who rose to fame in Greece in the 1950s with a song commemorating two Greek Cypriots hanged by the British, has died here, aged 76 (John Carr writes). She was reportedly destitute, not least because, for the past two years, her sharp-edged voice, reminiscent of Edith Piaf, had been silenced by throat cancer.

100 killed as boats collide

LAGOS: About 100 people drowned when two wooden boats collided off Nigeria's Niger delta, a local newspaper reported. The victims were traders travelling from the oil city of Port Harcourt to Nembere Rivers state. One of more than 70 people who survived blamed the accident on heavy rain. (Reuters)

Disco blast suspect held

ROME: Italian police have arrested a Libyan man wanted in Germany for the bombing in 1986 of a Berlin disco frequented by US soldiers in which three people died and 200 were injured. The man was named as Musbah Abdulgassem Eter. (Reuters)

Vietnamese age claim

HANOI: Le Thi Co, a 117-year-old Vietnamese grandmother is the latest contender for the title of the world's oldest person. Earlier this month the Guinness Book of Records gave the title to a 116-year-old Canadian. (Reuters)

German dome makers seek £2m for loss of contract

BY ROGER BOYES

THE German dome-building company snubbed by Peter Mandelson has engaged a top commercial law firm in Britain to press for at least £2 million damages for the loss of the contract to build the Millennium Dome and to maximise the Government's embarrassment in Europe.

Stephen Lock, of Lodgegate Communications, said yesterday that Herbert Smith, the commercial law practice with offices in London and Brussels, would take on the British Government and the New Millennium Experience Company for its ditching of the Koch-Highet contract to build the skin of the roof of the Millennium Dome in Greenwich. "Basically, Peter Mandelson could spend the next one or two years in and out of courts in London and Brussels," said Mr Lock.

The German dome-building company was based in Prien — were bemused by the British decision to switch from a polyester-skin dome to a Teflon-coated fibreglass roof. The company had submitted a quote for Teflon fibreglass in its original tender.

It is the world's biggest maker of fibreglass membranes, with a manufacturing capacity of three million square yards. By comparison, Japanese-owned Birdair, now set to win the order, has a capacity of 600,000 square yards. The price difference between the bids was not large: both were between £14 million and £15 million. If the Government pays even the minimum level of compensation to the Germans, then there will be little to choose between the two bids.

The switch is therefore being regarded as politically motivated by the advisers to the Germans. "Our assumption is that, in trying to distance itself from a PVC dome, the New Millennium Experience Company basically sacked the German company," said Mr Lock.

Mr Mandelson, the minister in charge of the Millennium project, has said the Government decided to use Teflon because the material was expected to last more than 25 years, providing "an enduring legacy after the end of the millennium celebrations".



Tenor Jaime Aragall will sing on opening night



Madrid's ill-fated opera house bursts into song five years late

FROM GILES TREMLETT IN MADRID

MADRID'S opera house, the Teatro Real, is nervously preparing for a grand autumn reopening nearly ten years after closing its doors for what should have been a four-year refurbishment.

Political intrigue, artistic backbiting, architectural incompetence and spiralling prices have all been blamed for turning the £100 million refurbishment into a comic opera of its own.

The theatre was originally meant to open in 1992 when Madrid was Europe's City of Culture. But national, regional and municipal authorities spent years squabbling over funding, eventually raising the total cost fourfold.

Bad luck also played a part. The first architect, José Manuel González de Valcarlos, died while showing journalists around in 1992. His replacement, Francisco Rodríguez, broke his foot shortly after taking over. Work had to be suspended when the main construction company went into receivership.

The opera had three artistic directors over the past two years. The last to leave was a Frenchman, Stéphane Lessner, who fell out with Esperanza Aguirre, the conservative Culture Minister. A musical director, conductor Antoni Ros Marba, was hired in 1989 but left after arguing with M. Lessner. The conductor was six years on the payroll, earning about £600,000, with no orchestra to direct.

A two-tonne glass chandelier crashed in the main auditorium in 1995. When work was deemed to be nearly completed in February this year, it was found the seats were pointing the wrong way.

The problems have now been resolved and the theatre is due to hold its first performance on October 11 with tenor Jaime Aragall and soprano Maria José Montiel in an all-Spanish production of *La Vida Breve*. King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia will be guests of honour on the opening night, which will draw the cream of European opera. Señora Aguirre promises that the 1,750-seat auditorium will be "the best opera house in the world".

Britain's Royal Ballet, currently homeless while the Royal Opera House undergoes refurbishment, is to perform *Sleeping Beauty* in November.

Madrid's opera and ballet lovers, starved of fare for so long, have swamped the box office. All season tickets were sold in the first three days.

Belgian elite survives paedophile revolt

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN BRUSSELS

A YEAR since Belgium came close to revolt over the handling of the paedophile murders, the Government and the country's much-criticised institutions have weathered the storm without a single sacking.

Fading photographs of Julie Lejeune and Melissa Russo, the eight-year-olds starved to death in the home of Marc Dutroux, are still visible in windows, cars and shops, but the crisis over the child killings has blown over, sparing the coalition government of Jean-Luc Dehaene.

"A year on and absolutely nothing has changed," said Marc Verwiltgen, the popular leader of a parliamentary inquiry which exposed incompetence and failure by the authorities which handled the case. Mr Verwiltgen, a Flemish Liberal MP, is angry over the Government's failure to act on his findings.

Mr Dutroux, 41, remains in solitary custody in the southwestern town of Arlon, still denying many of the charges that he kidnapped at least six girls and murdered four at his home near Charleroi. He is reported to be playing with his investigators in the textbook style of a psychopath. In an illustration of the snail-like pace of Belgian justice, his trial is not expected to start until late next year.

No evidence has been produced to confirm speculation that Mr Dutroux and his alleged accomplices enjoyed protection from high-placed figures or that they were the centre of a paedophile ring. However, eight out of ten Belgians still believe this to be the case, according to polls. The parliamentary inquiry is to start investigating the matter next week.

Examining judges yesterday staged the latest confrontation between Mr Dutroux and Michèle Martin, the woman he was living with, who is reported to be co-operating, describing alleged atrocities committed by the "monster of Charleroi". Ms Martin and Michel Lejeune, an alleged accomplice, are the only two of the 12 others charged in the affair to remain in custody.

The emotion of last October's "White March" in which 300,000 citizens demanded reform to the system of political patronage seems like a distant memory. Shocked by the public protests, the Government then promised reforms to answer the charge that the paedophile affair was the symptom of an indifferent and corrupt state.

Measures have been taken. A centre for missing children has been set up. Stung by the evidence of indifference to disappearances, the police are also reacting zealously every time a child goes missing. Judges are to be appointed purely on merit.

But there is a feeling the political establishment has shirked responsibility. Polls show that up to 90 per cent of Belgians feel the Government has taken little account of public demands.

Ministers reject the charge of inaction. "The system that I have to change is rigid," said Stefan De Clerck, the Justice Minister. "To say that nothing has been done is false. It takes more than 100 days to try to correct a system which was going wrong for five years."



Dutroux: his trial not until late next year



Lejeune: starved to death in Dutroux home

Unhealthy rush to altar gets Turks' goats

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU
IN NICOSIA

POLICE on a British base in Cyprus, more used to herding boisterous soldiers, have been in action against some 400 Turkish Cypriot goats being smuggled across the island's dividing "Green Line" to furnish wedding feasts in the Greek Cypriot south.

The floppy-eared excursionists, caught crossing into the British military base of Dhekelia that straddles the divide, es-

caped being cooked. But they still came to an untimely end. All were destroyed on Tuesday when a vet discovered they were infected with brucellosis. Altogether 387 goats, 25 sheep and three dogs were given lethal injections.

A diplomat said that while it was virtually impossible to get the island's estranged Cypriot leaders to sit at the negotiating table "co-operation between crooks has always been excellent".

Police believe the livestock was destined for Greek Cypriot smugglers hop-

ing to capitalise on the demand for oven-baked goat meat in the late summer months when it is the traditional dish at huge, outdoor wedding feasts. The profit margins are often healthier than the livestock: a goat that sells for about £12 in northern Cyprus can fetch five times that in Greek Cypriot areas.

A civilian court on the base yesterday charged two Turkish Cypriots with "illegal transportation of animals which have not been examined or inoculated". They face up to six-months' jail.

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after defections

THE TIMES THURSDAY AUGUST 28 1997

Miners' invasion brings death to Amazon tribe

A RAGTAG army of at least 6,000 armed gold diggers and diamond hunters have invaded an Amazon rainforest reserve inhabited by Yanomami Indians, and are threatening the survival of the region's most primitive and isolated tribe.

Hundreds of Yanomami Indians have fallen ill and have had to be airlifted out of the mine-rich Roraima state in Brazil's northern jungle region, which lies along the 1,800 mile border with Venezuela, is believed to be rich in unexploited natural resources.

Health workers said a sharp rise in cases of malaria, tuberculosis and pulmonary infections had been detected among the Yanomami Indians since gold and diamond prospectors, known as *garimpeiros*, set up makeshift jungle camps which are polluting and spreading disease along ecologically sensitive rivers.

"Which *garimpeiros* invade Yanomami lands they plunder their crops, pollute the rivers and shoot any Indian who opposes their presence," said Claudio Esteves de Oliveira, one of three doctors, working for an independent, Pro-Yanomami Commission.

"The mining pits dug along the rivers are breeding grounds for the mosquitoes which cause malaria epidemics," he said. "Drunk *garimpeiros* regularly raid the villages to rape the Yanomami girls. We have detected an alarming rise in sexually transmitted diseases, and dread to think what the outcome would be if we started to test for HIV."

Twelve Yanomami Indians were killed in confrontations with armed gold diggers this month. Three children under three and ten elderly women died from malnutrition before reaching the hospital in Boa Vista, the capital of Roraima, and the closest city to the 200 or so remote Yanomami villages scattered around the reserve.

"The gold and diamond hunters threaten us with guns and illness. They are killing my people and keep coming into our lands even though the Government promised to keep them out," said Davi Kopenawa, Yanomami, a chief, during a meeting of indigenous leaders with Brazilian authorities in Boa Vista.

"Very soon the Yanomami will be



An influx of armed prospectors is threatening Brazil's primitive Yanomami tribespeople. Report and photographs by Gabriella Gamini

no more and the Earth will be destroyed," he said. "My people want to defend the forest from destruction. But the white men have weapons that kill faster than an arrow. The Yanomami cannot fight back against this evil."

The Brazilian Government demarcated a third of the state of Roraima as a "preservation" zone for Yanomami Indians in 1991. But its failure to enforce the zone has been criticised by local and international organisations which defend the rights of endangered tribes. According to non-governmental organisations working in the region the situation is now "critical", and if the flow of illegal miners continues the damage could be irreversible.

"We are very concerned that the Brazilian Government has done nothing to remove *garimpeiros* working illegally in the Yanomami



A Yanomami man dressed for the hunt. He is now the quarry for illegal miners

area," said Richard Garside, press officer of Survival International in London.

The police and army launched Operation Free Jungle to remove 40,000 *garimpeiros* by force during a gold rush in the early 1990s. But years on the authorities stand by as a new wave of *El Dorado* seekers invade the protected region.

"It's the richest area in the land, full of gold and diamond deposits. Why should the Indians have it all," said Pedro de Oliveira, a toothless gold digger, as he bought his supplies of rifle cartridges, shovels, buckets and alcohol in central Boa Vista.

Like thousands of others he is a migrant from exhausted mines in the poor state of Maranhao. Thousands of others come from backwater towns across the border in Venezuela — such as the Wild West style Santa Elena de Upien — which survive on the illegal diamond trade.

They receive backing from Roraima politicians, feudal style landlords, who rely on the migrants votes and are traditionally anti-preservacionistas. "Being a friend of the Yanomami is like being a friend of the devil here in Boa Vista. We have to work undercover because there is a price on our heads," said Senhor Esteves de Oliveira.

A £1.7 million fund released by the Government last year for the FUNAI — Brazil's official body for the protection of indigenous groups — to renew operations against illegal mining activity, has mysteriously vanished. Some say it was spent by the cash-strapped organisation's headquarters in Brasilia before it ever reached Roraima.

Funai blames the air force for failing to provide the American-made Buffalo aircraft needed to launch the operation to remove the miners. "The Yanomami are suffering terribly from the entry of *garimpeiros* and we want to get them out. But we have not received collaboration from the air force,"



A Yanomami girl pounds manioc in her remote village, a way of life threatened by gold fever

said Walter Blos, a FUNAI representative who is based in Boa Vista.

Missionaries and health workers who live in the Indian villages of Tootobiti and Dimini, have reported seeing huge patches of forest being cut down to build clandestine landing strips for the twin-engine planes which bring miners into the jungle. More than 55 balsas, or barges, used to drill into riverbeds, have also been spotted in the area.

At least 100,000 Yanomami Indians roamed the northern Amazon basin before the Spanish colonisers reached the Americas. Just over 22,000 members of the tribe survive according to recent estimates, 9,400 in Brazil and the rest in Venezuelan rainforest.

Health workers, who registered a small rise in their birth rate in 1993-1995 when mining activity was almost eradicated, warn that their population is again dwindling.



Tobacco victory brings lawyers \$1bn

FROM TUNAI VARADARAJAN

LAWYERS who represented the state of Florida in its recent lawsuit against the American tobacco industry could receive \$1 billion (£625 million) for their services.

The suit was settled out of court on Sunday, with "Big Tobacco" agreeing to pay the state \$11.3 billion as compensation for money spent on treating smoking-related illnesses. The payout also included a large proportion in "punitive damages".

Since they were acting on a "no win, no fee" basis, the 11 law firms which acted for Florida will receive a handsome share of the spoils. Lawton Chiles, the Governor of Florida, has been quick to point out that the settlement does not include lawyers' fees which the tobacco industry will have to pay separately.

Robert Montgomery, one of Florida's attorneys, revealed that the estimate of "at least \$1 billion" in lawyers' fees was based on a retainer contract which gives lawyers 25 per cent of any settlement, or verdict brought in by a jury. Although Florida will receive \$11.3 billion, not all of that is open to assessment for contingency fees. The proportion treated as "punitive" — that which is in excess of the literal compensation for monies spent on Medicaid — is placed beyond the lawyers' grasp.

The "punitive" element is not, as yet, precisely charted, but is expected to be at least \$6.3 billion. That leaves a maximum of \$5 billion that will represent compensation, and from which the lawyers can take their cut. Split 11 ways, the firms stand to receive about \$91 million each. Mr Montgomery said: "It sounds like a lot of money. But when you consider the number of hours, the complexity of the case, the uniqueness of the issues litigated, and the expertise required, it really is not that much money."

Before the trial, the lawyers had rejected various options, and went instead for a "25 per cent across-the-board deal".

Mosquitoes bring fear of epidemic to Florida

FROM TUNAI VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

CENTRAL Florida, home to the Disney World resort park, is on a mosquito "red alert" after the area was hit by swarms of insects bearing a potentially deadly strain of encephalitis.

In the last outbreak of the disease to occur in Florida, in 1990, 11 people died and 223 people were taken ill. As a precaution against being bitten by mosquitoes, residents and visiting tourists are being advised not to venture outside at dawn or dusk, the periods at which the insects are at their most voracious.

Disney World has also discouraged the use of pools after dusk. It is handing out leaflets listing precautions to the thousands of tourists who file through its gates.

Tony Welch, a spokesman for the Florida State Health Department, said that a num-

ber of cases of encephalitis, spread by the mosquitoes, had been detected in about 40 chickens. Yesterday, two people in Brevard County, about 60 miles southeast of Orlando, were also reported to have been tested for the disease.

Dr. Jahangir Moinal, the county's epidemiologist, said: "We predict we're going to have an outbreak. Right now we have two suspected cases, but they are not confirmed cases."

In an effort to exterminate the disease-bearing mosquitoes, lorries and aircraft will be employed on "a war footing" over the next week, spraying insecticide over a 1,375 square mile area believed to be most at risk.

Residents are being urged to eliminate stagnant water around their homes. They are also being advised to wear

long-sleeved clothing at all times. Mosquito repellent has also been described as de rigueur.

Symptoms of encephalitis, which attacks and destroys the body's nervous system, are headaches, a stiff neck, high fever and constant drowsiness. Elderly people are more susceptible to the disease than the young, say doctors. State health officials advised people to go to a doctor "instantly" should they have any of these symptoms.

The proliferation of mosquitoes this year has been ascribed to the heavy rainfall which has hit Florida. Besides, the virus is thought to be cyclical, emerging after gaps of seven to ten years.

The ground in Central Florida is now saturated, and this helps mosquito eggs to hatch. The eggs can remain dormant for up to seven years.

'Sellout' taunt by Harare minister

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN HARARE

A GOVERNMENT minister stunned a judicial inquiry into fraudulent war disability payments by calling a questioner a "sellout" — guerrilla slang for a collaborator with the former white Government.

The media also interpreted a comment by Joyce Mujuru, the Rural Resources Minister, as a threat to kill the man. Mrs Mujuru, who as a guerrilla went by the name of Teurari Ropa, or Spill Blood, was testifying on Tuesday, the sixth day of an official enquiry into how \$44 million (£27 million) was paid out to bogus claimants.

Some, including President Mugabe's apparently healthy brother-in-law, got up to \$80,000 despite dubious combat records in the 1972-80 fight to end white rule.

Mrs Mujuru said she was given \$35,000 "by mistake" in the belief she was applying for a business loan, and had since repaid the money.

When Sobhuza Gula-Ndebele, a lawyer and former guerrilla, asked Mrs Mujuru why her former comrades-in-arms signed forms supporting her claim that she had suffered 55 per cent disability as a result of the war, the minister screamed: "You are a sellout. It's as if you are accusing me. If you want to be a hero from this commission you are going to get heroism."

The state-controlled media interpreted her outburst as a reference to Mr Mugabe's custom of declaring dead former guerrillas "National Heroes" and, therefore, an implied threat to kill Mr Gula-Ndebele. Mrs Mujuru survived the bush war "without a scratch".

Up to 90,000 former guerrillas and political detainees claim they are living in near destitution. They have been demonstrating for \$50,000 payouts, \$180 a month pensions and land. Yesterday the cash-strapped Government said it had agreed to award the veterans a \$4,220 one-off payment and a monthly pension.



Kim Basinger reads a statement at Rio Grande Zoo in Albuquerque, New Mexico, as part of her campaign to draw attention to the ill-treatment of performing animals in America. The actress took up the cause after an eight-year-old African elephant was found dead from beat

Kim Basinger in animal plea

exhaustion in its trailer outside a hotel in Albuquerque earlier this month. Two other elephants found alive in the trailer, and eight llamas, have been handed over to city officials

as animal cruelty charges are brought against a trainer employed by the Texas-based King Royal Circus. "These animals are kept in horrific conditions," said the actress, an animal rights activist. "They're dragged around cities suffering in the name of entertainment."

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Richard Beeston from Moscow

Last November Vladimir Veshnyakov, Drofa's deputy director-general, was found shot dead in a car in suburban Moscow. At the time his partner said Veshnyakov should not have moved around the city without a bodyguard, a precaution which did not protect Mr Krutik nine months later.

"Frankly the profits involved are too small to bother killing somebody for," said one veteran publisher. "The only exception are the contracts for the Government's

In Moscow figures in the sports world have been particular targets. In April, Valentin Sych, the head of Russia's Ice Hockey Federation, was shot dead. His murder was followed in June by that of Larisa Nechaeva, director of Moscow Sportpalace football club.



FROM TOM WALKER IN SANTA JITA

Mrs Plavsic kept a low profile yesterday, choosing not

Another institution looks set to align itself with the Plavsicis: the camp: she now has the police, most of the army and the Church on her side. Dr. Karadzic has his empty rhetoric given credence by these parts of the state media he still controls — and yesterday there were reports that another state television transmitter, near Doboj, was about to switch allegiance. United Nations sources said last night that shooting had been heard near the Doboj television transmitter. They said the town's police

Given Mrs Plavsic's enormous gains of the past week, and her well-known hatred of Mr Milosevic and his communist methods, the Yugoslav President will be coming on bended knee. Diplomatic rumours that have fuelled into Banja Luka from Pale talk of a bitter fallout between three men with the interna-

"It's entirely feasible that they're splitting," said one Western diplomat. "Karadzic is desperate to save his skin, and Krajisnik and Milosevic are under incredible pressure from the international community."

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Dr Thomas Stuttford on compulsive disorders in the young; research into CJD; high blood pressure; treating children with HIV; and more good news for drinkers

When an obsession takes over

Doctors on both sides of the Atlantic have been treating children, quite legitimately, with Prozac for several years. It is a safer drug, and quite as effective, as the older anti-depressants. They cannot understand why there has been a furore in the lay press about its use in juveniles.

Faverin, fluvoxamine maleate, is, like Prozac, a SHT reuptake inhibitor. It was given FDA clearance for the treatment of obsessive-compulsive disorders (OCD) in children and adolescents in March this year.

Many people are as unaware of the increasing number of children who are showing signs of depressive illnesses, as they are unconscious of the number of juveniles who have OCD, and they are therefore untreated. In younger children this may be because parents do not know of the condition, whereas older children and adolescents deliberately hide their disturbed behaviour. This concealment is, in itself, very trying and can make the child's behaviour even more abnormal.

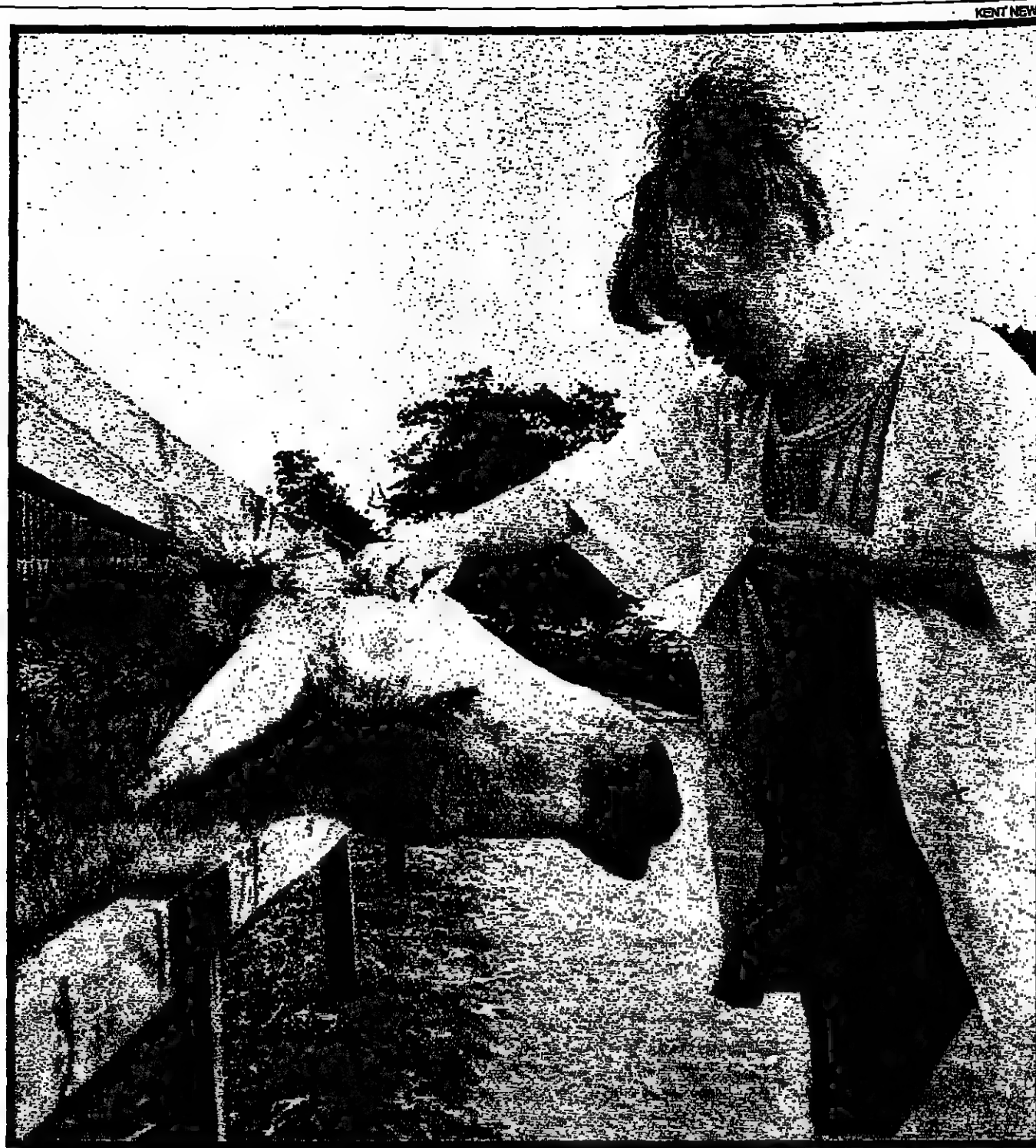
The extent of the problem became obvious in America only after adolescents, and their parents, started to describe symptoms on the Internet. Surveys have put the incidence of OCD in children at at least the same level as childhood diabetes. Before patients started, very bravely, to publicise their obsessional fears, each thought they were alone with their anxieties and ensuing compulsions.

The most common obsessions in children are fear of contamination from "germs" and hence serious ill-

ness, fear of intruders, a fixation about lucky and unlucky numbers, and unreasonable doubts about their abilities. The most common compulsions are extravagant handwashing and cleansing rituals, a compelling desire to check, question, arrange, organise and hoard and a variety of touching rituals whether of railings, pavements or doorknobs.

Patients with OCD, including children, are by nature perfectionists and inflexible, so that they often fail to complete the tasks they set out to achieve. They are hyperconscientious, obsessively preoccupied with detail, are prepared to sacrifice leisure and friendships in pursuit of a goal, and too often allow their lives to be ruled by schedules and lists. Their strict rules of behaviour can erode spontaneous generosity of the spirit, and limit instinctive demonstrations of affection. The time-consuming rituals can dominate patients' lives and reduce their efficiency and pleasure.

Doctors and patients need to decide when a behaviour pattern becomes abnormal. A criterion is whether or not the compulsion interferes with normal life. It would not be thought abnormal, for instance, for a woman to insist on washing her hands before every meal, or for her 16-year-old daughter to spend 20 minutes a day washing her hair, but it would be considered abnormal if her husband felt compelled to wash his hands exactly 100 times a day, thereby making them red and raw, or if another child was invariably late for school as he had to soap himself 63 times precisely each morning in the shower.



Clare Tomkins, a strict vegetarian for the past 12 years, has been stricken with a new strain of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease

The mysteries that still surround CJD

CLARE TOMKINS, who is seriously ill with new-style Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, has been a vegetarian since 1985. The first case of BSE was diagnosed in 1986, but since the incubation period for BSE is at least five years, a certain number of people may have been infected in the late Seventies and early Eighties.

CJD is likely to have a long incubation period, of 20 to 30 years, judging by comparisons made with similar prion-transmitted diseases. There will be occasional cases before and after any epidemic, but their number does not help to predict its size.

Professor John Collinge of St Mary's Hospital, London, said that it is difficult to forecast how many people will develop CJD. It could be a few hundred, but it might be hundreds of thousands.

About half the population has the genetic make-up which could make them vulnerable to CJD. The few cases that have been confirmed so far suggest that young people may be more susceptible. If this is confirmed, it could be because the disease has a shorter incubation period in youth, or because of different dietary habits. Professor Collinge said: "Research so far does not support difference in diet in different age groups as the explanation for the number of young people with new-style CJD."

It is also unknown whether people fall prey because of the overall amount of infected bovine material eaten, or whether a burger binge might deliver the large single dose sufficient to induce an infection.

Time consuming rituals can dominate their lives

Exciting new drug stops the pulse racing

As many as one in five people over the age of 50 has high blood pressure, and this proportion increases in older age groups. So the arrival of a new drug, Physiotens (moxonidine), which combats the condition in a new way, is bound to excite interest.

Physiotens is also free of the troublesome side-effects — which include impotence, cold hands and feet, and the possible triggering of attacks of asthma or gout — of existing treatments.

Hypertension, or raised blood pressure, is more common in men than women. It sometimes shows no symptoms in its early stages, and damage can be done without people being aware that their blood pressure is up. If left untreated, it can lead to a heart attack, heart failure or stroke. It can damage the kidneys or affect the retina at the back of the eye.

In the past 30 years treatment, and prevention, of high blood pressure regardless of a person's age has been one of the most important objectives of good general practice. Us-

ually no single cause is found, although occasionally it can be shown to be the result of a hormonal abnormality, kidney damage or the interference of the blood supply to the kidneys.

Sufferers have many characteristics in common. They tend to be overweight, easily stressed, and obsessive. In addition, they often have a high cholesterol level. They are also more likely to smoke, take little exercise and be prone to non-insulin-dependent diabetes. The same features are found in someone whose sympathetic nervous system — which controls many of the body's routine operations, such as circulation, digestion and breathing — goes into overdrive.

This overdrive can result in constriction of the peripheral arteries, high blood pressure, enlargement of the heart, raised cholesterol, platelets that are too sticky, and an

increased resistance to insulin. The above conditions may in time lead to irregular or rapid heartbeat, narrowed arteries, heart failure or diabetes. They are all indicators — in most cases, at least — of a modern lifestyle unhealthy, and full of stress.

Most drugs that are used in the treatment of blood pressure act on the peripheral blood vessels, but do not attempt to influence the control centre in the brain stem, which regulates it. It is a bit like a building whose temperature can be controlled only by opening the windows, rather than by adjusting the central heating.

Physiotens, by contrast, acts centrally. As well as lowering blood pressure, the drug improves other conditions caused by sympathetic overdrive, and reduces insulin resistance.

Clinical data about Physiotens was presented to the European Society of Cardiology in Stockholm earlier this week. Research has shown that, whereas the most commonly used hypotensive drug combinations make diabetes more likely, Physiotens, by contrast, actually reduces incidence of the disorder.

Most people are unlikely to be aware of the concept of insulin resistance, sympathetic overdrive and their links to heart failure, hypertension, renal damage and non-insulin-dependent diabetes. But they might well be attracted to Physiotens once they learn about its lack of effect on peripheral blood vessels — this means that, while taking the treatment, they can enjoy a better sex life, may suffer less from baldness and have warmer extremities than they did with their previous pills.

Physiotens is free of irksome side-effects such as impotence

New hope for HIV-infected children

THERE has been little research on the best way of treating the two-and-a-half million children throughout the world who have been infected with HIV. In Europe, 6,907 children have been diagnosed as having Aids, about 50 per cent of these cases resulting from mother/child transmission.

This week the European Union approved the use of an anti-viral drug Stavudine-D4T, marketed as Zerit, as part of combination therapy for the treatment of HIV in children over the age of three months.

Dr Gareth Tudor-Williams, senior lecturer in infectious diseases in the Department of Paediatrics at St Mary's Hospital, London, said: "D4T is available as a liquid and represents a significant addition to the drugs we have at our disposal to combat HIV. In view of D4T's high tolerability and the lack of resistance and cross resistance to other antivirals, together with its ability to penetrate the central nervous system, it is a logical component of combinations of drugs to use in the initial treatment of infected children."



Women are less likely than men to suffer from hypertension

Alcohol prevents leg pain

THE BENEFIT to the coronary arteries of drinking two to four standard glasses of wine a day, or its alcoholic equivalent, is now becoming generally accepted. Hitherto, there has not been the same amount of evidence to support the value of taking a daily drink in retaining a free flow of blood to the limbs.

Many patients with cardiovascular disease suffer from intermittent claudication: this is the technical term for the gripping, stitch-like pain which affects the lower limb when a person takes exercise. Characteristically, the pain goes very quickly once a person is at rest; the pain usually affects the calves, but can involve the thighs or even, rarely, the buttocks.

People with intermittent

claudication are worse in cold weather. They may then be observed pausing at regular intervals as they walk down the street, apparently preoccupied with the goods in the shop windows, whereas they are in fact only waiting for the pain in their legs to disappear before they resume their walk.

Researchers in America have studied case histories of 22,000 male doctors. The good news for doctors, and their patients, is that a modest daily intake of alcohol halves the risk of developing intermittent claudication. To be effective the drinks must be taken regularly, those doctors who only had a drink before their Sunday lunch, or at some other single point in the week, had as much intermittent claudication as teetotallers.

INSIDE SECTION 2

Men behaving barely: Geoff Brown reviews the superb new British comedy, *The Fall Monty*, about Sheffield steelworkers who turn themselves into male strippers

Arts page 33

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Well, okay. But, hey, not so fast. Whaaa! don't push...

THE MAKING OF HAGUE

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THE TIMES THURSDAY AUGUST 28 1997

Knocking on the pontiff's door

In his first interview after his near fatal heart disease, Bob Dylan looks forward to meeting the Pope. Tunku Varadarajan reports

Elvis Presley headbashed his way to the top of the charts. The King is dead. It's official. Bob Dylan has said so. In the first interview since his "never-ending tour" was derailed last May by his heart disease, a potentially fatal heart condition, Dylan looks forward to meeting the Pope. Tunku Varadarajan reports.

But the hislopasmosis did at last leave, and the 55-year-old singer did not see Elvis. Instead, he will shortly be seeing another great man, the Pope. The Vatican has announced that he will perform before the pontiff on September 27 at the World Eucharistic Congress in Bologna. The opaque nature of Dylan's response will not disappoint the legions who still crave for cryptic crumbs from the singer's table. "The Pope, huh? I guess it must be happening."

Monsignor Ernesto Vanni, head of the organizational committee of the Bologna gig, said: "I believe Bob Dylan has recently moved towards Christianity." Dylan, in fact, has recently moved away from the faith, having embraced it in the late Seventies and early Eighties.

His explicit Bible-thumping phase, which gave rise to such musical duds as *Saved*, has now been quietly filed away in the archives. Dylan today embraces a looser, more secular other-worldliness, far removed from the time when he sang such lines as "Man gave names to all the animals", which had all but died-hard fans reaching for brown paper bags. His Christianity, for then, had a truly awkward flavour. Allied to no particular church or sect, it was nonetheless the sort of fundamentalist anti-Darwin stuff more suited to a rural Mississippi church than to the author of *Blowin' in the Wind*.

But Dylan had recovered completely from his evangelical virus when he was struck down in May by his heart disease, a fungal condition that inflamed the heart's protective sac. At the time of his illness, he had been firmly on the old road again — inventive, incoherent and oddly demonic. His latest album, *Time Out of Mind*, was recorded before he

was rushed to hospital, and contains almost the first fresh material composed by Dylan since his 1990 album, *Under the Red Sky*. The creative process has clearly been a tortuous one. "Up until I was sick, I was putting songs on, taking songs off," he says. "I didn't know what picture it was forming. When I got sick, I had to let it all go. I spent a lot of time making it, but I haven't really heard it in a few months."

But will the album be any good? Does it matter? Does anyone judge Dylan any more? The answer to all three questions could easily be a simple "no". Early "travels" on the Internet show some critics underwhelmed, their enthusiasm sparked more by the concept of a new Dylan recording than by its content. There are 12 new songs, with such promising titles — redolent of the "old" Dylan — as *Dirty Road Blues*.



The Pope, Bologna concert

The Pope, huh? I guess if the Vatican is reporting it, it must be happening.

Not Dark Yet, Standing in the Doorway and Till I Fall in Love With You.

Critics complain, however, that Dylan is insubstantial; that (most wounding) his songs have no fire in their belly, that the tracks are overloaded with too many accompanying musicians. There would appear to be some truth in the last allegation, as *Time Out of Mind* features Jim Dickinson, Augie Myers, Duke Robillard and Cyndie Cashdollar. Why? Dylan himself has sought to explain the clutter: "It's a desire to be a poet. It's a desire to be a poet."

of thing. You can feel it rather than think about it."

Hmmmm. That's sad: the purest joy of Dylan is to think about the man's words, his encryptions, his double meanings, his argot, his *chiaroscuro*. But still — the man himself is back. Better, fitter, leaner, he has blitzed America since his discharge from hospital after six weeks in bed. Since his comeback concert earlier this month when he played for two hours at the Loon Mountain Ski Resort in Lincoln, New Hampshire, he has performed 16 times at venues across the country.

Dylan, in fact, has been on a thrilling "live" form. So much so that the "fans' telegraph" is humming with the belief that he has recovered those entertainer's skills which he misplaced on the road somewhere in the late Seventies.

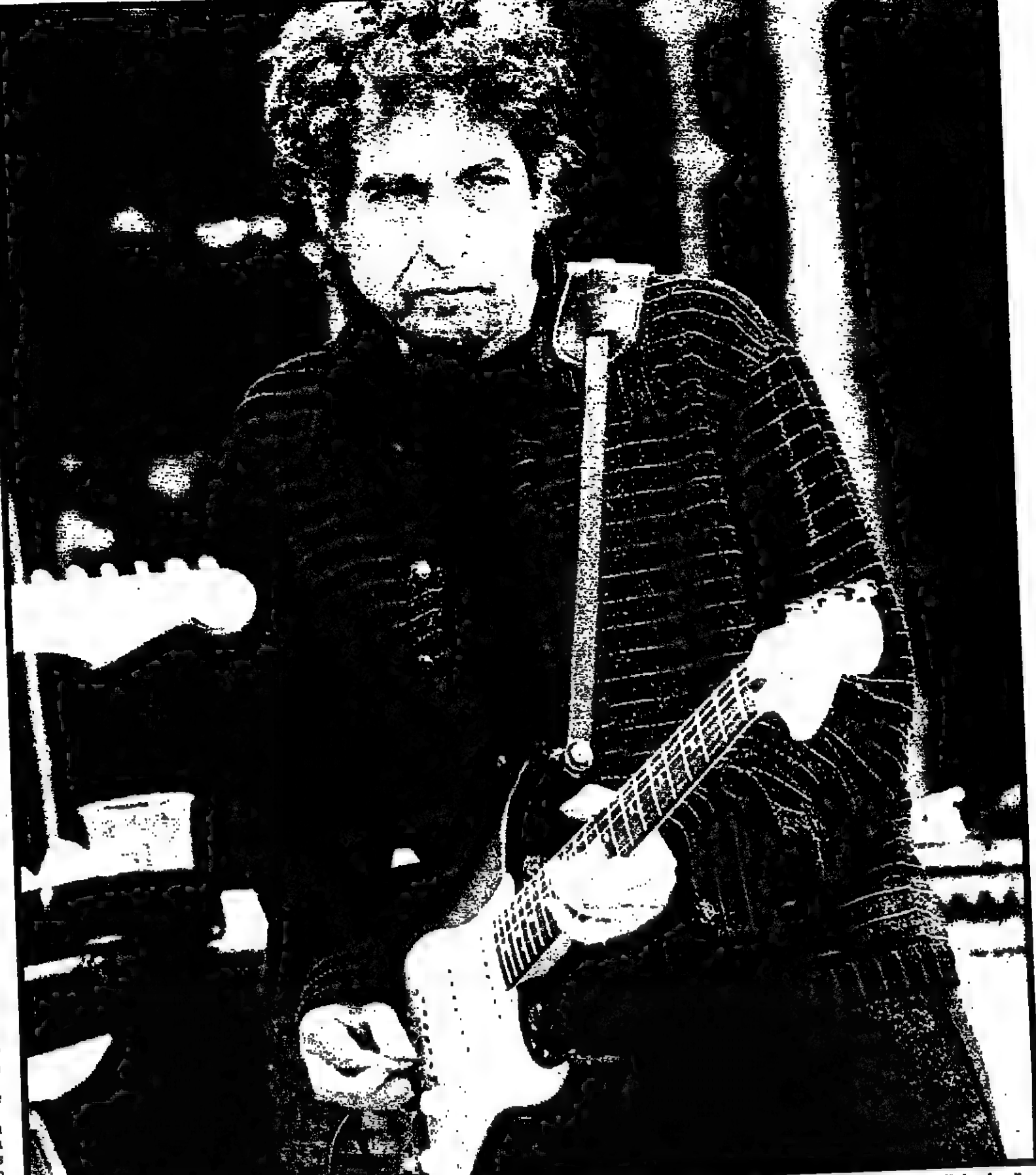
Dylan's has been a singular life, of course. How many popular musicians can claim to have been suggested for the Nobel Prize for Literature, as Dylan was last year by a group of American professors? Wislawa Szymborska, the Polish poetess, won in the end, and is clearly a deserving laureate. But Dylan would not have been an unworthy choice.

Heavyweight academics have been unstinting in their admiration. The scholar and critic Christopher Ricks has compared him with William Shakespeare, drawing parallels in his lectures between *Measure for Measure* and the song *Seven Curses*. Ricks, Professor of English at Boston University, has gone so far as to say that no one alive uses words better than Dylan does.

Frank Kermode, the distinguished Cambridge scholar, has also described Dylan's songs as "poems". "His poems have to be open, empty, inviting collusion. To write thus is to practise a very modern art." In fact, Dylan himself is in no doubt that he is a poet: "I'm a poet! I know it! Hope I don't blow it."

He hasn't blown it, although he has come very close on a number of occasions. He has changed too often, and too often the change has been a wrench, not evolution. Fans have rightly been able to throw his words back at him: "You used to ride on the chrome horse with your diplomat / Who carried on his shoulder a Siamese cat / Ain't it hard when you discover that / He really wasn't there it's a..."

But now his phrasing is clear. He smiles. He sings 15 songs or more, with encores to match. He even — and this is a



"I was off my feet for six weeks. When I got out of hospital, I could hardly walk around my yard. I had to stay in bed and sleep all the time"

first — kissed a woman on stage the other night when she evaded the heavies, jumped on stage, and danced close to Dylan during a rumbustious version of *Leopard Skin Pill-Box Hat*. All this is a punishing schedule for a man whose heart put him into hospital, sending editors everywhere reaching for their obituaries.

Dylan is wide awake again. The playlists of his concerts are conscious evocations of his best music. It is as if his knock on death's gate has reawakened a dormant connection to his finest hours. The lax, meandering performances of old, once thoughtlessly inflicted on long-suffering fans, have given way to shows in which he appears to be aware of time, of limits, of his own mortality.

The Pope wants to hear Bob Dylan. Hats off to the Pope. But let his clutch of monsignors not attempt to assemble a programme beforehand. It would be a catastrophic idea for them to say: "Your Holiness, Mr Dylan will sing *Tamhounie Man* and *Blind Willie McTell*, before moving on to *Stuck Inside of Mobile* with the *Memphis Blues* Again, with perhaps an encore from his latest album."

Dylan does not work that way. Mercurial to the last, his spirit is unconstant. His failing health may have slowed him down at last, but songs still flow from him, uncharted and unkempt, as if at the beck of a genie in the microphone. He nearly saw Elvis last month. He will see the Pope next month. Who will see after that? Himself in a mirror, perhaps, older than he used to be, "younger than that now?"

Love, hate and Mary Shelley

A major exhibition in Rome celebrates the turbulent life of Frankenstein's creator. Richard Owen reports

In a small side room at the Keats-Shelley Memorial House in the heart of Rome, two Englishwomen who spent their lives yoked in a love-hate relationship gaze at each other eternally from opposite walls: Mary Shelley, author of *Frankenstein*, and wife of the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley, and Claire Clairmont, Mary's stepsister, the mistress of Lord Byron and possibly of Shelley as well.

Many of the visitors who make for the pink three-storey house at the foot of the Spanish Steps ignore Mary and Claire — or wonder who they are. They focus instead on the three great male poets whose memorabilia is displayed in the rooms: Shelley, Keats and Byron.

But a third Englishwoman, Catherine Payling, is bringing Mary and Claire "out of the shadows and into the light". They are the subject of a major exhibition mounted by Payling, the museum's new director, to mark the bicentenary of Mary's birth on Saturday.

"You would be astonished how many people ask me who Mary Shelley was," she says.

"They've heard of Frankenstein, but not of her. You wonder who people think did write it — some Hollywood screen-writer, perhaps."

A Newcastle girl, Payling, 31, worked for a year at the Maritime Museum at Greenwich after graduating from Oxford, then spent three years learning accountancy in the City. She became number two in the finance department of the Royal Opera House, then transferred to the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

When she applied for the Rome job, she thought she would be "either a highly appropriate candidate or a highly inappropriate one. I wasn't sure which". It was her studies in English literature at Wadham College that drew her to the Romantic poets, and to *Frankenstein*, which she still finds "very powerful". The novel "bursts with ideas about humanity overreaching itself by playing God. It's also about taking responsibility for one's actions, which Victor

Frankenstein as a scientist fails to do."

Mary Shelley took many of her ideas from her parents: her mother was Mary Wollstonecraft, author of *Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, while Godwin was author of the libertarian *Inquiry Concerning Political Justice*.

Claire published very little, but was a prolific letter-writer and kept a journal, touched with malice and wit.

The great unanswered question is whether Shelley and Claire were lovers. From the beginning, all three were inseparable. Both girls were 16 when they encountered the 22-year-old Shelley, who had come to see Godwin, whose libertarian ideas he fervently admired. He fell head over heels in love with Mary, an "English Rose". But Claire, the dark-eyed daughter by a previous relationship of Godwin's with the mysterious Mrs Clairmont, was also "bowed over by this fiery young man full of revolutionary Godwinian ideas", Payling notes.

Everywhere Shelley and Mary went, Claire went too. Shelley was already married, but in 1814 he eloped with Mary to the Continent — and Claire came, too. Shelley's first wife Harriet subsequently drowned herself in the Serpentine. Back in England, Claire detached herself from her sister and Shelley long enough to embark on an affair with Byron, by whom she had a child, Allegra.

Mary and Shelley were married in 1816, and they, Claire and Byron all went to Lake Geneva. But Byron soon tired of Claire, and she returned to the ménage à trois with Mary and Shelley. As the archives in Rome show, the sisters remained close, but they also drove each other up



Mary Shelley and Catherine Payling

the wall. As Payling remarks: "I'm afraid it's the old adage about two being company and three being a crowd." In her middle age, Mary even wrote of Claire: "Now, I would not go to Paradise with her for a companion. She poisoned my life when young, and still has the faculty of making me more uncomfortable than any human being."

Could a suspicion that Shelley and Claire were a bit too close have prompted this outburst? Mary was often pregnant: she had four children by Shelley. She also had numerous miscarriages. Meanwhile, Claire and Shelley spent a great deal of time together, including a long trip to Venice. It was then Payling be-

lieves, that they may have been physically intimate. "I am struck by letters in which Shelley writes to Claire about making arrangements but deliberately excludes his wife."

She says: "I find their lives terribly sad. On the other hand, they had real compensations in that brief time with Shelley and Byron between 1814 and 1822. After all when Shelley drowned, Mary was still only 25, and Claire 24."

The rest was duller: Mary returned to Kentish Town, writing books and creating the Shelley legend by overseeing publication of his collected poems. She died in 1851 and is buried in Bournemouth. Claire went to Russia as a governess, lived in Vienna, Dresden and London, and finally retired to Florence, where she died in genteel poverty in 1879 surviving Mary by nearly three decades, and allegedly keeping Shelley's love letters under lock and key.

Claire never married, allegedly because of Byron, saying her passion for him had "wasted and ruined my heart as if it had been scorched by a thousand lightnings... I was the victim of a happy passion which, like all things perfect in its kind, was fleeting. Mine lasted only ten minutes, but those ten minutes have discomposed the rest of my life."

And this is how I prefer to think of them," says Catherine, "not feuding in old age, but writing, creating, inspiring. Mary as the pretty English rose, and Claire the dark-eyed Southern beauty whose irresistible air of sexual availability swept Byron off his feet. If only for ten minutes."

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The Nordic race and its rejects

Forced sterilisation did not end with Hitler, says Roger Boyes

The quest for racial purity, whether it be at the hands of concentration camp doctors such as Josef Mengele, or the barbaric militia men of the Balkan killing fields, is fundamentally evil. No doctrine, no amount of commitment to social engineering, can justify it. We, as a mixed island race, a stew of nations, understand this better than most.

Revelations from Scandinavia about the scope of compulsory sterilisation suggest, however, that the fantasy of a perfect racial stereotype is not confined to totalitarian societies. Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland — all regarded as models of postwar democracy — selected mentally ill or racially "inferior" women for compulsory sterilisation for years.

The movement began after the First World War and it is shocking to be reminded how widely accepted were some of the basic precepts of Nazi racial ideology. In Switzerland, the French-speaking canton of Vaud sterilised the mentally handicapped under a 1928 law which later served as a model for Nazi Germany's own 1933 legislation for the "protection of hereditary health". As in Scandinavia, the Swiss sterilisation continued well into the Second World War. Typically, one young woman, two months pregnant, was recommended for sterilisation in 1944 because she was "feeble-minded, morally weak, idiotic and promiscuous".

Denmark's sterilisation law also predated that of the Third Reich. These countries stopped short of the Nazi practice of euthanasia. Even Hitler realised that this would trigger outrage and swayed his plans in secrecy. How, after the discrediting of Nazi eugenics, could compulsory sterilisation of the racially and socially "inferior" be continued in the developed world? Arguments have been advanced for some kind of mass sterilisation in the overpopulated Third World. But even there, sterilisation stumbled quickly against the limits of public acceptance. India's programme of the 1970s was a conspicuous failure. Now it concentrates on better primary healthcare and better distribution of contraceptives.

The social welfare states of northern Europe were not faced with such problems of overpopulation. Their postwar sterilisation programmes were guided rather by a kind of arrogance that the ruling Social Democrats knew best how Swedes, Danes or Norwegians should look and how they should behave. The Danish author Peter Hoeg, in his novel *Borderliners*, captures the sense of enveloping secrecy in his country's children's hostels, where those who did not fit into convenient patterns were dumped and "socialised".

The welfare state system, when it was as complete and thorough as those in Scandinavia, could always find methods of tacit coercion. Hospitals in Sweden refused abortions to women who were not willing

to be sterilised. Swedish housing workers were told to list tenants who were unsuitable for procreation. This, in the 1960s and 1970s, when Sweden was offering asylum to Vietnam draft dodgers, puffing on marijuana joints and presenting itself as a standard-bearer of freedom. Borsal boys were sterilised before going to summer work camps. Left their fertile socially acceptable farm girls. Maciej Zaremba, the journalist who has just uncovered the scope of the sterilisation programme, has identified a woman who was sterilised for having poor eyesight.

Most damning of all was the Swedish Government's willingness to sterilise women because they did not conform to the Aryan image of blonde hair and blue eyes; women with "gypsy" features were put up for the operation. Compulsory sterilisation did not end until 1976. Altogether, 60,000 Swedish men and women were made infertile, 2,000 Norwegians, 6,000 Danes and thousands more in France, Belgium and Switzerland. Many of the victims can now be expected to claim compensation.

Remarkably, none of Sweden's Social Democratic thinkers seem to have seen anything very wrong in selection or racial "improvement". The Nobel Prize winners Alva and Gunnar Myrdal sympathised with the project and the most influential head of the Institute for Racial Biology after the war, Herman Lundborg, was a convinced Social Democrat, not a crypto-Nazi. Yet his classifications, appearing again and again in his books, were starkly racist in tone. His photographic captions included: woman of low social status... racially mixed... she was marked down for sterilisation. And: vagrant man with feminine characteristics. The Nazi catalogues used almost identical phrases.

Scandinavia has never been immune from racism and Denmark, perhaps out of a misguided sense of tolerance, plays host to neo-Nazi activists banned from Germany. But the root problem has nothing to do with nostalgia for Hitler. Rather, it is about ethical confusion, about how science can be used to smooth the way towards a perfectable society.

In an era of genetically enhanced tomatoes and cloned sheep, it is worth studying the theories which underpinned such sterilisation programmes. And if there is one lesson from the grisly experiences of northern Europe, it is that controls should be tightened on welfare state administrators. Too much power was vested in doctors, orphanage directors, social case officers and probation officials.

The label "New Totalitarianism" was once applied to the Swedes. That was a caricature of an essentially benign and generous society which has, in any case, relaxed over the years. But risks still lurk there and here.

The welfare state system, when it was as complete and thorough as those in Scandinavia, could always find methods of tacit coercion. Hospitals in Sweden refused abortions to women who were not willing

The Prime Minister can handle his party; the real challenge is policy, says Peter Riddell

Blair comes back to work — and to earth

Tony Blair will start the second phase of his premiership when he returns to Downing Street this morning. The euphoric, Teflon-coated phase is now over. Mr Blair will have to start delivering on the promises made, and reviews launched, before the holidays.

Little that has happened during August will have any lasting importance: it seldom does. Many holiday-makers could easily have muddled the activities of Peter Mandelson and Dodi Fayed. The Millennium Dome sounds a Fayed type of project and Mr Mandelson enjoys the silly headlines of August are discounted, the spell has been broken. After three months when nothing seemed to go wrong, the Government has begun to make slips and, no less important, has started to face media criticism like its predecessors.

None of this means that the public is yet disillusioned with the Blair Government. The latest MORI poll in *The Times* today, showing a three-point fall in Labour support to 54 per cent, is really just a return to political reality. Labour has a much bigger poll lead than any new administration in recent history. Mr Blair himself continues to enjoy stratospheric personal ratings, far higher than Margaret Thatcher ever had. The public still has faith in the Government. That is the rub for Mr Blair. He knows the public's expectations are high — possibly too high.

In that respect, the message from Downing Street on Tuesday that Mr Blair will concentrate on the "big picture" — the priorities of education, health and devolution — is not just

public relations guff, though it is certainly that. His fate will be determined by these central issues rather than the August trivia. The lesson of such squalls is that Ministers need to sharpen up decision-making to avoid the problems such as those over tuition fees for students taking a gap-year. This should mean more emphasis on deliberation, rather than the current mixture of over-centralisation and leaking.

Top of Mr Blair's agenda will, as always, be the economy. In retrospect, the most important news in August may turn out to have been the further rise in interest rates and evidence of a consumer and housing boom. The question is whether the economy will slow down rather than slide sharply into recession next year. Downing Street policymakers are already nervous about the warnings from business of the impact of the strong pound on exports. However, having set out his strategy in the Budget, Gordon Brown has ruled out any further action this autumn. The next major statement is due in the spring Budget. Until then, the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee will be responsible for steering the economy, and its priority is

proving its anti-inflation credentials. So all the Government can do is watch nervously.

Before he flew off to Cape Cod, the Chancellor said his main focus this autumn would be the comprehensive spending review to re-examine priorities within, and between, departments. This will show how far it is possible to find savings to fund improvements in health, education and other favoured services without raising personal taxes.

So far, the Government has relied on one-off wheezes such as the windfall tax on the utilities and a £1 billion raid on the National Lottery. But these do not provide a long-term answer and, as the Liberal Democrats have pointed out, there are serious short-term pressures in both the NHS and schools.

The key test will be welfare reform, where Mr Blair and Mr Brown hope that the extensive measures announced in the Budget to move people off the dole into training schemes and jobs will eventually result in big savings. The Government has not reached conclusions on the extent of changes to social security

— how far it is possible to integrate the tax and social benefits system and how far to return to a contributory system, as Frank Field, Minister for Welfare Reform, has urged.

A related priority is how the Government can improve standards in schools and tackle crime and disorder, where major Bills are due this autumn. In both areas, the question is not the objectives, but how ministers can deliver. On schools, David Blunkett and Stephen Byers have set ambitious targets, but they are relying on a centralised system of monitoring and inspection. There is a reluctance to promote parental choice or competition between taxpayer-funded schools. On health, the Government has so far executed a rhetorical circle while denying that it is continuing the internal market. It has made few changes of substance.

The other big long-term item in Mr Blair's in-tray is Europe. Despite the hype of two months ago, the Amsterdam summit solved very little. Big questions, on enlargement and the future structure of the European Union, remain unresolved, while over the next six months decisions will have to be taken on the timing and size of monetary union. Britain is

unlikely to join any single currency in 1999, but Britain, which will hold the presidency of the EU in the first half of 1998, will shortly have to decide whether to stand aside or promise to join at some future date.

Mr Blair's immediate priority is devolution, with the Scottish vote in a fortnight and the Welsh ballot a week later. The betting is still that the Government will win both, including the question on "tax-varying" powers in Scotland. But the Labour Party over the affairs of the Labour Party in Paisley after the death of Gordon McMaster not only overshadowed the start of the referendum campaign, but has also raised questions about how far the party in the country has really changed. That will be tested at the party conference in five weeks, when Mr Blair seeks approval for proposals to reduce the scope for the unions and local activists to embarrass a Labour Government.

Underlying all these issues is how far Mr Blair can define a new direction. He intends what he has called the "Third Way" to be unlike the tax-and-spend record of past Labour administrations, and different also from the approach of the Thatcher and Major Governments. Mr Blair is in a much stronger political position than either his Italian or French counterparts whom he met on holiday. But they — like President Clinton across the Atlantic — face the same dilemma: how to reconcile social cohesion with a free-market, global economy. That is Mr Blair's real "big picture".

The Princess and our privacy

The press may need protecting more than Diana does, argues Magnus Linklater

I doubt whether Diana, Princess of Wales, is the ideal model around whom to construct a law of privacy. Her impassioned interview with *Le Monde* yesterday painted a heartrending picture of a Princess at bay, victimised by a ferocious press, her life in Britain rendered intolerable by journalists. "In my position any sane person would have left long ago," she confided. "But I cannot. I have my sons."

Moved by her story, the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, spoke up in her defence, paying gallant tribute to her campaigning work abroad. He had, he said, "immense admiration" for her courage. But Mr Cook, I suspect, may not have been wholly objective. He was, after all, endorsing a political supporter who had described the Tories as "hopeless".

And he has had his own domestic problems with the press. His decision to leave his wife and set up home with his Commons secretary inevitably attracted the attention of the newspapers, and led to snatched, albeit innocent, pictures of Mr Cook dumping his bin bags outside his home.

Neither the Princess nor the Minister are in serious need of protection, being well-versed in the ways of the media. Both are experienced in allowing information to be disseminated when it suits them. In Diana's case, this has amounted to her co-operation in an entire book presenting her side of the case against the Royal Family and her former husband, as well as her participation in the strange ritual that takes place whenever she is pursued by boatloads of the tabloid press. One is never entirely sure on these occasions who is using whom. It is, I suppose, an invasion of privacy, but a privacy of a peculiarly public nature.

A better case might be that of Victoria Brittain. *The Guardian* journalist who discovered that her privacy had been invaded by an MIS surveillance operation. Intelligence officers became interested in her activities after they discovered that

£250,000 had been deposited in her bank account by the former head of the Ghanaian Security Service. They suspected that the money was being laundered through Libyan intelligence. Ms Brittain's explanation was innocent, if a trifle naive. She said she had agreed to accept the deposits in her account from a long-standing Ghanaian friend who was suing another newspaper and needed someone to hold funds to meet legal expenses. Outraged by MIS's activities, Ms Brittain is now planning legal action.

It may be that MIS broke its own surveillance rules, and, like the maverick officers once exposed by the *Spycatcher*, Peter Wright, who "bugged and bugged their way across London", were abusing their powers. But I cannot help feeling that their interest in Ms Brittain was perfectly legitimate.

There was, it appears, some link with a Libyan bank and even a suggestion — of which she says she has no knowledge — that the Libyans were paying her friend's legal fees. In those circumstances, I should have thought MIS was almost duty-bound to find out the truth.

Cases such as these expose the minefield before us in the shape of the European Convention on Human Rights, which is due to be incorporated into domestic legislation, thus providing Britain with its first privacy laws. It will mean, as John Wadham, the Director of Liberty, pointed out in *The Times* recently, that our fundamental rights exist no longer merely in the silence of the law, but will have a key place in a new constitution. That, in itself, will not address the complexity of the privacy issue. Not only is the convention nearly 50 years old, predating the perils of the telephone lens, it will need to be supplemented by a Bill of Rights, framed by Parliament. In the meantime it will be up to judges to reach their own interpretation of the convention. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, says they will jump at the chance and has predicted an avalanche of landmark civil rights



Diana as she wishes to be seen: hugging a dying child in Lahore

cases. There will, he says, be a judge-created law of privacy whether we like it or not.

This, for any journalist, is a nightmare prospect. The kind of judges who will begin the process are not among the keenest of our legal minds. They will see it as a chance to curb the powers of the press and they will believe that public opinion is on their side — which it may well be. But public opinion and zealous judges do not make good law. For every ordinary citizen whose legitimate rights are protected, there will be a Robert Maxwell to take advantage of court rulings. The difficulty of framing a law which will protect the innocent, while continuing to expose the potentially guilty, has confronted

numerous commissions, committees, and Private Members' Bills from the Royal Commission on the Press in 1949 to the Calcutt Committee in 1990. The Government shrank from Calcutt's recommendation to make press intrusion a criminal offence, and opted instead to "introduce a tough new Press Complaints Commission (PCC)".

Has it worked? Journalists and editors insist that it has, citing the number of cases dealt with, the stern judgments issued, the general decline in the tally of serious complaints. They point out that there is now a tougher code of conduct which every journalist is said to carry in his wallet. (I have yet to meet one who does). It outlaws intrusive photography, inva-

sion of private property, identifying children and gaining entry by fraud. That, they say, provides the guidelines within which all investigative journalism is now conducted — always recognising, of course, that there is a defence of "public interest" which permits all of the above at the simple behest of an editor. That defence covers a multitude of sins. It means, for instance, that while the police have to secure approval from a High Court judge before they bug a telephone, a journalist can listen in to a call without approval, provided, of course, he can demonstrate that his story is in the public interest. And it means that anyone who becomes caught up in a socially controversial issue is considered fair game.

William Zachs, the gay father of a surrogate child in Edinburgh, took the *Scottish Daily Mail* to the PCC recently after they had broken Clause 4 (Privacy) of the code by giving details of his private life, taking pictures of his home, revealing his address and naming the child. He told me that he had grown used to smuggling his baby daughter out of the back door, but felt that naming her in public was one intrusion too far. The commission admitted that the clause had been broken, conceded that privacy had been illegitimately invaded, and said that "publication was not within the spirit of the Code". But overall (their italics), it concluded, the newspaper could not be censured because it was a legitimate story in the public domain.

This kind of routine activity by newspapers, little reported and less notorious than packs of reporters pursuing Princess Diana, requires the media itself to face up to the issue. Lord Irvine recently posed the question of whether editors would prefer a law of privacy enacted by Parliament, or one created piecemeal by judges. There is no doubt of the answer. A carefully framed Bill incorporating the principles of the code of conduct, taken alongside measures that journalists want, such as a reform of the defamation laws and a Freedom of Information Act, would provide a better guarantee of press freedom than a series of rulings from the bench.

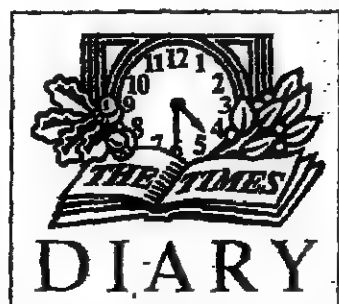
We have reached, in short, a point where the media itself, far from campaigning against a law of privacy, would be better advised to begin framing it themselves. If they do not, there is no lack of others ready and willing to do it for them.

Dog days

ALAN CLARK has been hounding John Birt, the BBC Director-General, has been on the receiving end of an exhorting attack from the old bouncer, who is refusing to co-operate with the corporation. This is unfortunate, as much for Clark as the Beeb, because one of the projects he is refusing to get involved in is the massive publicity drive for his own four-part history of the Conservative Party, which begins in a fortnight.

The bone of contention is Clark's summons to appear before Folkestone magistrates next Monday after an incident in which his rottiweiler, Hannah, locked her jaws onto the hand of a BBC cameraman. This occurred in a confusing scrum at Clark's Saltwood Castle the day after he was selected to fight Kensington and Chelsea for the Tories.

Clark has written a typically colourful letter to Birt claiming that it is "monstrous" that he cannot prevail upon an employee to call off the lawyers and threatening to sever his relations with the BBC. Birt has remained unmoved and Clark is stubbornly refusing to do the usual rounds of interviews that



DIARY

accompany a four-hour flagship series. "Even *Radio Times* has been snubbed," says a Beeb insider. "It's so strange. By not publicising the series he is cutting off his nose to spite his face."

Clark is locked away still trying to finish the book to accompany the series and is unavailable, so we will just have to wait until after the court case to see if he softens.

ing-room floor while she sang songs from *The Wizard of Oz*. Kray, currently serving a 30-year sentence for the murder of Jack "the Hat" McVie, has been recalled to a party at Garland's Chelsea home in the late Sixties, where the guests included the playwright Lionel Bart. "When everyone departed, Judy suggested we say and enjoy some sandwiches and gin and tonics while we sat in the middle of the floor," Kray writes in *The Stage*. Of particular poignance, the murderer remembers, was Garland's rendition of *Over the Rainbow*. "My mother Violet, who died in 1983, also sang this song. I think to myself: I'm sure they're both somewhere over the rainbow."

Loyal fan

A DUTCH woman called Winnifred calls to say that she is a former girlfriend of Dodi Fayed and everyone has got him all wrong. "The person behind this rich playboy image is someone to respect," she says. Dodi should be seen not so much as a member of the international jet-set with more former girlfriends than Warren Beatty, but as a gentle and kindly Samaritan. "He is a generous man and very sensitive. If he saw someone with no money he always stepped in. He

once saw a girl standing by herself by the road hitchhiking and he said he was just going to pick her up to make sure she was all right. Then all these other people appeared, but he took them as well. My memories of him are very positive." I am delighted to put the record straight.

• Diana, Princess of Wales, says she would have left the country ages ago if it wasn't for her sons. If she needs a hideaway within Harrods helicopter commuting distance of them she should feel at home at Balmagowan, the castle in



"You're nicked"

Ross-shire which Mohamed Al Fayed bought 25 years ago and painted pink. The Princess is descended, through her grandmother, Cynthia Countess Spencer, from the 6th Earl of Ross, who built the castle in the 14th century.

Bank role

BEFORE tackling the role of Charles de Gaulle on film the proboscidean actor Gerard Depardieu is to return to the stage for the first time in years. He is to appear in an unlikely-sounding play called *Les Portes du Ciel* (*The Gates of Heaven*), by Jacques Attali. Attali once worked as President Mitterrand's personal adviser before becoming notorious as the president of the European Bank for Reconstruction, where his enthusiasm for private jets and Venetian marble at the bank's HQ cost him his job. The play is being billed as "a poignant look at the tragedy of power".

• The business of the Fareham District Police and Community Liaison Committee may prove unusually interesting. The new chairman of the committee is one Lady Musgrave, who not only has a conviction for criminal damage, after an incident involving a lover's Land Rover, but has brought a



Moving out, moving in: Kate Moss and Laetitia Lewis-Maklout

case against the local force which she says is soon to be heard by the International Human Rights Court in Strasbourg. She claims police failed to respond "quickly enough" to a 999 call after she had overdosed on prescription drugs.

Moss loss

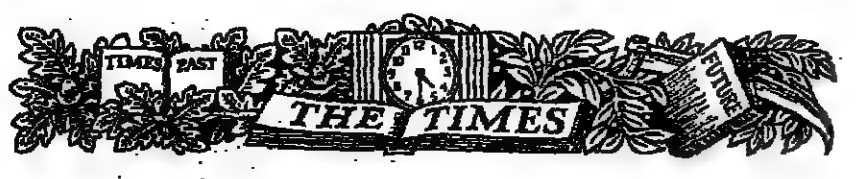
CLEARLY more suited to Fifth Avenue than the Uxbridge Road, the supermodel Kate Moss has sold her £300,000 home in Shepherd's Bush. Since buying the two-bedroom flat three years ago, she has spent £100,000 renovating it, installing a steel staircase which had



to be lowered in by crane. However, neighbours reported that she visited it about as often as she goes to the London Library, and after alterations with her builders, who claimed in December that she owed them £23,000, Moss decided to sell up and head for New York.

Into her old home steps Laetitia Lewis-Maklout, 23, actress and first-time house-buyer. "Kate's made it all so beautiful," she enthuses. "The only thing is that she had an enormous free-standing bath installed in the middle of the bedroom."

P.H.S



LOUSE UPON A WHEEL

Do not make a martyr of the MI5 man who sold secrets

A former MI5 agent, David Shayler, has earned his 15 minutes of infamy with a series of allegations about the intelligence agency he once served. It reflects no credit on the security service that it ever recruited him — even during a time when, quite properly, it was attempting to broaden the experience and range of its candidates. Mr Shayler had already provided ample evidence of his own untrustworthiness and unsuitability for intelligence work. It is the agency's failure to see this which will damage it most.

In every other respect his revelations and criticisms are either obvious, misleading or inconsequential. There will be an understandable clamour to see him prosecuted, but the recipient of his broken confidences was a newspaper and not the KGB. Care should be taken before wielding an instrument as blunt as the law, which could as easily compound the damage done as allow an example to be made.

Mr Shayler has used his conscience as a convenient excuse for his actions. He claims to have been motivated by anger at the agency's inefficiency and determination to see it reformed. These are risible excuses for a venal action. Was the best way of bringing matters to the attention of the relevant authorities really to negotiate a deal with *The Mail on Sunday*? Was that the only effective way of alerting Jack Straw? Is it necessary to plan to publish a book to underline the point?

Morally, Mr Shayler stands on the shakiest of ground and in the most dubious of company. Legally, there is a *prima facie* case for prosecution under the Official Secrets Act. Prosecution may, however, be unwise. Scotland Yard has a duty to investigate but the decision on whether prosecution is in the national interest rests with the Attorney-General, John Morris. It is an awkward test for the new Government. If Mr Shayler is not pursued through the courts, a signal may be sent to other agents

denied promotion that a lucrative future in publishing awaits. The unhappy consequences for the SAS of a stream of "inside" accounts stands as a warning. But the consequences of breaking Mr Shayler like a louse upon a wheel could be unhelpful still.

The example of Sir Robert Armstrong admitting to being "economical with the truth" in an Australian courtroom during the *Spycatcher* trial will incline civil servants to advise against more dirty linen being washed in front of the public gallery. A court case could become a book-selling circus for Mr Shayler. It could also expose the agency's representatives to a public cross-examination which would be keenly followed in Belfast and Beirut. The deterrent effect is, in any case, probably minimal. Anyone intelligent enough to work at a senior level in MI5 will know the money to be made from betrayal. They are constrained not by the threat of the courts but duty to the realm.

Establishing that agents have a sense of duty, so conspicuously absent in Mr Shayler's case, is the job of the vetters. The appropriate method for politicians to make their views known of this vetting failure is through the recently-constituted Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliament. The committee's powers to call for people and papers are wide-ranging. Its members will be able to judge Mr Shayler's allegation that the agency is crippled by bureaucracy. They should be able to consider the appropriateness of monitoring subversion in the light of the real Cold War threat and the successful penetration of British institutions by fellow travellers. They should also be able to judge maturely if it is bureaucracy alone that allowed the IRA to operate on the British mainland. The available evidence suggests that answering those questions may not take too long. Time may then properly be devoted to asking how best to balance more broadly-based recruitment with a commitment to confidentiality.

UNCONSTRUCTIVE ENGAGEMENT

A Korean joker to bolster a weak American hand

Jang Seung Gil, North Korea's ambassador to Egypt, is not the most senior member of the regime to have defected. Formally, he is outranked by Hwang Jang Yop, the veteran ideologue and "number 24" in the party hierarchy who is now mystifying debriefers in Seoul. But in terms of the current intelligence likely to be in his possession, Mr Jang is by far the most important source ever to escape to America.

Mr Hwang is now thought to have been marginalised from the regime's inner circles for some years. Mr Jang, by contrast, was not only close to Kim Jong Il by virtue of his marriage to one of the "dear leaders' favourite actresses, but had a pivotal role in the most internationally sensitive area of North Korean policy, its secretive exports of ballistic missiles to the Middle East.

Mr Jang was vice-foreign minister in charge of the Middle East before becoming ambassador to the country which North Korea has made its headquarters in the region. He may not be able to shed much light on the reasons for Kim Jong Il's mysterious failure, more than three years after his father's death, to be named to the positions of President and chairman of the ruling Workers Party. But on the proliferation of these extremely destabilising weapons and weapons technologies, of which North Korea is believed by the CIA to be the key supplier to Iran, Libya, Iraq and Syria as well as Egypt, he should possess detailed information of great strategic importance.

The Clinton Administration might have been expected to be pleased by this. Instead, in a now-traditional attempt to save one of the world's ugliest faces, it stressed that Washington read into this defection no symptoms of political disarray in Pyongyang. There was, the State Department insisted, no reason why it should stop either of two scheduled sets of negotiations, on missile proliferation and the four-party Korean peace talks.

Not for the first time, America received no reward for its care. North Korea pulled out

of the missile talks yesterday as they were about to start — and, in an added gesture of defiance, announced that it was withdrawing from the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights following criticism of its practice of detaining huge numbers of its people in concentration camps.

The first decision should be read as confirmation that Mr Jang is in a position to furnish the US with evidence that North Korea has no intention of facing. The second bit of political theatre is consistent with North Korea's truculent attitude to the contacts with the outside world forced upon it by economic crisis and life-threatening food shortages. On past form, the US will shrug, keep trying for peace talks and keep food aid flowing despite North Korea's refusal to permit proper foreign monitoring of what happens to it.

Pyeongyang gets away with conduct that would not be tolerated in others for one reason — the threat this unpredictable regime poses to security in Asia. US policy is dominated by two fears — of a nuclear-armed North Korea, and of an Armageddon staged by rulers who, sensing their grip on power weakened by domestic disaster, could plunge the peninsula into war. North Korea understands this perfectly and tweaks US and South Korean nerves. Military parades pledge loyalty to the regime "in the spirit of human bombs and suicidal attack"; military pinpricks punctuate each insincere nod in the direction of talks. With menaces it demands food aid; and by feeding the starving, the West frees funds for North Korea to spend on developing a new 3,500-kilometre range missile, the Taepodong, to add to the arsenal sold to the West's enemies.

The one gain is the halting of nuclear proliferation if, as the US believes, North Korea is keeping the bargain so expensively struck by the West. But Washington must hope that Mr Jang can help it check the ballistic missiles programme as well: for it is these weapons above all that make North Korea the most dangerous country on earth.

UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY

Libya is still best left to the lion and the lizard

Libya scarcely flaunts itself as a holiday destination. Jealously governed by a dictatorship, subject to UN sanctions and with all diplomatic links severed with the West, it is a notorious sponsor of international terrorism. Yet this pariah state is now investigating possibilities of opening up its borders to tourism. A London firm of consultants has been approached for advice.

Its classical ruins and desert landscapes are an archaeologist's delight. From the magnificent Roman remains at Lepcis Magna and Sabratha to the imposing Greek sites at Cyrena and Apollonia. These have been protected from erosion by long entombment in dry desert sands and are, as yet, unravaged by the tourist trade. Indeed, many ruins have only recently been discovered. The Roman villa at Silene, for instance, was excavated a mere ten years ago.

Even more ancient are the wondrous cave paintings of the Acacus mountains — thought to be some 10,000 years old — and more abundant and more lovely even than the murals which millions of film goers admired in *The English Patient*. Anthony Minghella's hit has whetted the taste for

desert lands. But cultural travellers should be aware that Libya is an inhospitable state. Visas can take several months to obtain. Travel between sites can take many days. Internal flights are not advisable; embargoes on the import of spare aircraft parts make the national airline untrustworthy. And in medical or other emergencies, getting out of Libya quickly is extremely difficult. UN sanctions prohibit any international flights.

Colonel Gaddafi, long indifferent to world opinion, is seeking to diversify the oil-based economy of his country. But it will take radical changes in the political climate before the average sun-seeker is basking along Libya's Mediterranean coastline. This is a restrictive state. Harsh penalties are imposed on those drinking alcohol, dressing too scantily or wielding a camera injudiciously.

Those who yearn to see Libya's cultural heritage should be patient. All but the most desperate or determined should wait another few years before they visit. The duration of the current regime is as nothing compared to the antiquity of these sites.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Montserrat lesson for Government

From Mr David Taylor

Sir, The confusion which continues to characterise the British Government's handling of the Montserrat situation (leading articles, August 21, 25) is surely a reflection of the extent to which the small remaining Caribbean Dependencies have become marginalised in government planning and thinking. They only become of concern to British governments of both parties when they cause embarrassment to ministers. For the rest of the time they are neither very well run nor very well resourced.

I was Governor of Montserrat from 1990 to 1993. The people of Montserrat, like those of the other Caribbean Dependencies, have wished to remain British partly because their island is of doubtful viability as an independent unit but also because they recognise the limitations of their own elected Government and they look, not unreasonably, to the British Government to be particularly focused, generous and concerned in its assistance to them in time of trial.

In the event the Montserratians do not seem to have been well served either by their own Government or ours. Their own Government has over the two years since the volcano began to erupt been indecisive and vacillating in exercising the large measure of responsibility devolved to it since the 1960s. Both Governments seem to have had difficulty in deciding whether they are dealing with a short-term emergency or a long-developing problem, producing inevitable delays in the delivery of aid.

The Montserratian politicians have been reluctant to recognise that they may have to abandon their fieldwork while the British Government has been reluctant to impose its will by, for example, suspending the Constitution to speed up the decision-making process. Alas, it seems to have needed the deaths in June (report, "Volcano islanders fear new eruption as toll rises to 23", June 30) to bring home both the gravity and urgency of the situation.

The division of responsibility between the newly named Department for International Development and the Foreign Office since May has not helped, and the interdepartmental group (report, August 26) should have been set up long ago by the previous Government (as was done for the rehabilitation of the Falklands, in which I was also involved). It is hardly surprising that Montserrat's third Chief Minister in two years, David Brand, a highly political and able man, should make the demands which Clare Short finds so unrealistic. It took the Falklands War to change 150 years of benign neglect there.

If Montserrat is to continue as a community it can scarcely do so without an airport, adequate and safe medical services, sufficient good housing and supporting infrastructure. If the island has to be abandoned, then the response by way of funds for travel and resettlement must also be generous.

Montserrat has been a lesson in dependent territories administration which this new Government would do well to take seriously.

Yours etc,
D. G. P. TAYLOR
(Chief Executive, Falkland Islands Government, 1983-87 and 1988-89),
53 Lillian Road, Barnes, SW13.
August 26.

Mir words

From Mr P. B. Soul

Sir, Asserting that an object in orbit is "essentially weightless", Mr M. R. Carter (letter, August 20) challenges the use of "weight" for "mass" in a report about Mir (August 15).

My guess is that your reporter chose the word weight to suit a general rather than scientific readership — not everyone appreciates the precise meaning of mass (ie, the amount of matter in an object).

In fact a spacecraft in orbit is far from weightless, for it is weight (ie, the force of gravity on it) that keeps it there and prevents it from literally flying off at a tangent into space.

The same applies to astronauts of course. The reason they feel weightless is simply that nothing is physically supporting their weight. Like Mir itself they are falling freely, but around the Earth instead of towards it.

Yours faithfully,
PETER SOUL,
51 Lakeside,
Earley, Reading, Berkshire.
August 21.

Musical desert?

From Mr Robert Ellerby

Sir, Be Here Now! I was there then, when in the same space of time as Oasis have taken to produce three. The Beatles had released seven quality albums. *D'You Know What I Mean?*

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT ELLERBY,
27 Manor Road,
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.
August 23.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

MI5 surveillance and need to review secret service role

From the Director of Liberty

Sir, The surveillance by MI5 of Jack Straw, now the Home Secretary, and of Peter Mandelson and others in the 1970s raises real concerns (reports, August 25, 26). Liberty, then the National Council for Civil Liberties, was subject to similar surveillance by MI5, as you also reported, and as a result of our complaint to the European Commission on Human Rights on behalf of Patricia Hewitt and Harriet Harman, the Government brought forward the Security Service Act 1989 which imposed the first elements of legal control over MI5.

Although the above examples are from some time ago both the controls in the 1989 Act and those in the subsequent legislation remain inadequate. The committee of parliamentarians set up to oversee all the secret services is hampered by being prevented from considering "operational" matters. The complaints mechanism, which was also set up by the legislation, works in secret; does not allow the complainant to see any of the documents, evidence or suspicions; can in effect only rule against MI5 if its decision to bug and tap was "perverse"; and cannot give reasons for its decisions. Since its creation it has never upheld a single complaint.

Stronger statutory controls on surveillance are necessary because of the absence of any general right to privacy which, if it existed, would provide some protection. The incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights into domestic law will provide such a general right.

Greenpeace-BP row

From Mr John V. Mitchell

Sir, The Greenpeace statement (Chris Rose's letter, August 25) that "The problem [of climate change] is not a lack of oil, but that we have too much" deserves challenge.

Proved reserves of conventional oil (the type likely to be produced from the Atlantic basin) are by most estimates equivalent to just over 40 years of current world oil consumption. If demand continues to grow at current rates presently known reserves are equivalent to less than 30 years.

If the growth of oil demand is not reversed before the growth of supply, more of the demand will be met from the Middle East, which has two thirds of the present conventional oil reserves, and from the conversion of reserves of "unconventional" heavy oil, tar sands, or coal which are indeed large and account for three quarters of the "known fossil-fuel reserves" to which Greenpeace often refers.

Middle East oil will be supplied by governments which are implacably opposed to international agreement to restrict fossil fuel use. Use of the non-conventional reserves will emit 10-20 per cent more carbon to produce liquid fuels equivalent in energy to those produced from conventional oil. On both counts, stopping exploration

for new conventional oil reserves risks damaging the climate rather than protecting it. Protection requires urgent action, but better targeted.

Yours etc,
JOHN MITCHELL
(Chairman, Energy and Environment Programme),
Royal Institute of International Affairs,
10 St James's Square, SW1.
August 26.

From the Director of the Association for the Conservation of Energy

Sir, You are right to praise BP for taking global warming seriously (leading article, August 20). Its chief executive, John Browne, seems to be unique amongst the heads of major companies which purvey the products causing climate change in publicly acknowledging cause and effect. But I wonder whether you are entitled from that evidence to make the assumption that the company is therefore fully committed to energy conservation.

After all, the company shows little evidence of much desire to diversify out of oil — precisely the issue exercising Greenpeace. During the 1980s BP (and Shell too) diversified into ownership of companies selling insulation. Both subsequently sold their interests. Consequently neither can have much

commercial interest in reducing the overall consumption of energy. Indeed they retain every incentive to increase demand; it is much easier to retain margins in a growing, rather than a declining market.

The Government's target is to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide — the main gas altering our climate — by 20 per cent on 1990 levels by the year 2010. Speaking in the Commons in June, the Prime Minister said the "single best thing" we can do to achieve this "is to improve energy efficiency".

It is difficult to see how, without major diversification, BP can do much to assist the nation to achieve this objective without seriously damaging its profitability.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW WARREN,
Director, Association for the Conservation of Energy,
Westgate House, Prebend Street, NI.

From Mr W. R. Pickering

Sir, What brand of petrol and oil did Greenpeace use for the Zodiac inflatable when boarding BP's oil rig (report, August 20)?

Yours faithfully,
W. R. PICKERING,
Augusta House, 44 Harborne Road,
Edgbaston, Birmingham.

Children in danger

From Mrs Frances Russell

Sir, Libby Purves is brave to stand up for parents who let their children out to play unsupervised (Invisible in its innocence, August 27), but she is absolutely right. When children get to a certain age (and that differs with each child) they no longer wish, or need, their parents tagging along with them all the time.

My ten-year-old son would play football from dawn till dusk in all weather if permitted, and I do allow him a bit of personal freedom to go out and play. I don't feel at all guilty, because I trust him and his friends to behave themselves, but I do worry about him, and lecture him continually about the need to be alert about

strangers and let me know where he is and to come home on time, and so on. The parents and families of children who do come to harm at the hands of strangers should not be made to feel guilty on top of their grief. The murder of Thomas Marshall is tragic indeed, but it would be dreadful if such thanklessly rare circumstances led to children being kept indoors throughout the holidays and weekends.

In the long term, what message would it give them about the world? That there are absolutely no adults that you can trust?

Yours sincerely,
FRANCES RUSSELL,
33 Ridley Avenue, Ealing, W13.
frances.russell@eset.dti.gov.uk
August 27.

Bishops' powers

From Mr David Way

Sir, The office of churchwarden, which can be traced back at least as far as the 13th century and which is of great significance in the development of this country's democratic traditions, is under serious threat.

The draft Churchwardens Measure, which has passed the General Synod, allows (in s.8) a bishop to "suspend" a churchwarden for "any cause" which appears to the bishop to be "good and reasonable"; and, this done, the bishop will then appoint a new churchwarden, his choice being final.

This proposed legislation may be seen in a context in which the bishops seem intent on gathering to themselves all elements of control within the Church — as with glebes, patronages and liturgy, and as proposed for cathedrals.

The old proverb has it that "the more apples the tree beareth, the more she boweth to the folk". But the powers within the Church of England would rather bend farther away from the long history of diversity in unity that is the chief glory of Anglicanism.

The draft measure is stirring up considerable disquiet: it is devoutly to be hoped that the Commons and the Lords, to whom it now passes, will not allow it to go forward.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID WAY,
The Manor House, Hamerton,
Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire.
August 26.

Lifeboat escape

From Mrs Mary E. Stewart

Sir, Your obituary of Captain William McVicar (August 22) recorded his epic journey in a lifeboat to the Brazilian coast after the attack on the SS *Briannia* on March 25, 1941.

Unfortunately the convention itself is inadequate, providing for very wide limitations on the right to privacy in "national security" cases. What is necessary is an independent review of the role of the secret services and real remedies for those unnecessarily spied on by them.

It is to be hoped that the new Government, which contains so many who were "victims" of MI5 in the past, will see the virtue of these proposals.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WADHAM,
Director, Liberty,
21 Tabard Street, SE1.
August 26.

From Mr David Winnick, MP for Walsall North (Labour)

Sir, If Mr David Shayler's revelations about some of the activities of MI5 are anywhere near accurate then clearly these matters should be debated in the Commons as soon as possible after its return.

No one can seriously argue that Britain has no need for an organisation dealing with security matters: this would be so even if terrorism, be it from Northern Ireland or the Middle East, were not a danger to our citizens. Domestically, extremist groups, however electorally insignificant, who wish to undermine and destroy the parliamentary and democratic system have no reason to complain about being targeted, and the history of this century tells us what kind of security operations would be employed if they actually held state power.

However, the revelations 12 years ago of a former MI5 official, Ms Cathy Massiter, showed that individuals like Harriet Harman, the present Secretary of State for Social Security, had been targeted, together with Patricia Hewitt, her colleague in the then National Council for Civil Liberties and now a Labour MP herself. And whatever the full truth of the statements by Peter Wright (whose integrity was hardly on the same level as that of Ms Massiter) it is, I think, pretty clear that an element within MI5 was totally out of control in the 1970s and that such officials were far more motivated by political spite and malice against a Labour Government than by carrying out the duties for which they were supposedly employed.

The present intelligence and security committee, established in the last Parliament and now reappointed, is not at all an adequate means of parliamentary scrutiny. Apart from other shortcomings, it reports annually to the Prime Minister and not to Parliament itself. The arguments against a more effective form of parliamentary scrutiny are much the same as were used for years against any form of parliamentary monitoring, prior to the formation of the present committee.

I hope that in Government my party will seriously consider putting into effect what we argued for in opposition.

Yours etc,
DAVID WINNICK,
House of Commons.
August 27.

From Mr W. R. Pickering

Sir, What brand of petrol and oil did Greenpeace use for the Zodiac inflatable when boarding BP's oil rig (report, August 20)?

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW WARREN,
Director, Association for the Conservation of Energy,
Westgate House, Prebend Street, NI.

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Yours faithfully,
W. R. PICKERING,
Augusta House, 44 Harborne Road,
Edgbaston, Birmingham.

Rats in the cistern

From Mr Brian Read

Sir, For the source of the "fat rat" found by Mr Peter Turner when he lifted the seat of his upstairs loo (letter, August 26) I suggest he interrogates any school-age son or nephew in the household. An ordinary rat would have leapt out of that loo at high speed when the cover was lifted.

Ordinary rats are not "fat". A domesticated pet rat is usually overweight, sluggish and trustful. It is sad that such an animal was flushed away. I suspect that the poor creature, if it has survived, is now desperately seeking food in the darkness of Mr Turner's house drains.

This is perhaps a case where the RSPCA should have been called in, not Thames Water.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN READ,
50 St Mark's Road,
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.
brian@uhler.demon.co.uk
August 26.

Tills apart

From Mr Peter Gladstone

Sir, Mr P. M. Barman seems to be surprised that English banknotes are not always immediately available at every counter of Scottish banks (letter, August 26).

I preferred to leave England with Scottish notes, particularly avoiding £1 coins. I wonder how many English banks would have them at all tills, or any. Can I hear Mr Barman saying "but that's different"?

Yours sincerely,
PETER GLADSTONE,
Fasque, Fettercairn, Kincardineshire.
pgscotland@aol.com
August 26.

Motor madness

From Dr John H. Greensmith

Sir, I see someone's trying to sell the car registration number P5 YCO (Car 97, August 23) for "in excess of £25,000".

The search is really on for someone with more money than sense.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GREENSMITH,
36A North Street, Downend, Bristol.
August 23.

Forthcoming marriages

7

OBITUARIES

COLONEL HANS VON LUCK

Colonel Hans von Luck, wartime Panzer leader, died in Hamburg on August 1 aged 86. He was born at Flensburg on July 15, 1911.

In his memoir, *Panzer Commander*, published in America in 1989, Hans von Luck recalls the astonishment he felt when, in the 1960s, he was invited to the Staff College at Camberley to lecture to young British officers on the German experience of the Normandy battle of 1944. The consciousness of having been the servant of an evil regime, doubly drummed into him through five years as a prisoner of the Russians between 1945 and 1950, made him reticent about talking of his war. But when he stood up to address his first Staff College audience, it was to hear himself described by Camberley's CO as "a fair and courageous opponent". The awkwardness passed, and he was regularly invited back.

Staff College audiences were particularly interested to hear what a German had to say about the controversial Operation Goodwood, the British 2nd Army's desperate attempt to break out of its bridgehead at Caen in July 1944. As commanding officer of 125 Panzer Grenadier Regiment, von Luck had played an important part in repelling the most massive Allied tank attack of the entire Normandy campaign. On one occasion he even ordered the commander of a flak battery at gunpoint not to train his 88mm guns skywards looking for aircraft, but to use them against the advancing British tanks.

Either you're a dead man or you can earn yourself a medal," von Luck told the reluctant flak commander, leveling his Luger pistol at him. Faced with this steady determination, the young officer complied, and the anti-aircraft guns became anti-tank guns, with devastating effect on the British armour.

The repulse of Goodwood brought acute disappointment verging on outrage to the Chiefs of Staff, the press and the British public, and its effects reverberate among military commentators to this day. That three complete armoured divisions — whose way forward had supposedly been eased by an immense carpet of bombs dropped by 2,000 aircraft —

should have been stopped in their tracks by vastly inferior German forces, was considered a disgrace. Tedder, Eisenhower's deputy for the NW Europe campaign, furious at the squandering of such massive air power for such limited objectives, called for Montgomery's head. Montgomery, in a perhaps retrospective adjustment of his aims, said that no breakout had been planned; Goodwood had been a "battle of position" intended to draw German forces into a war of attrition and allow the Americans to break out on the western flank of the bridgehead — which indeed they later did.

On the German side, von Luck's initiatives — besides the flak battery, he had rounded up much other artillery and got it pointing in the right direction — earned him the praise of the corps commander. He was used to such notice. From early on in his career he had been a protégé of Rommel, who in 1942 had had him brought from the Russian front to North Africa to command his "pet" unit, the 3rd Panzer Reconnaissance Battalion. Poland, 1939; France 1940; Russia 1941-42; North Africa 1942-43; NW Europe 1944; and finally the Eastern front again just before the final collapse in 1945, von Luck had been in the thick of just about every campaign of the war.

Hans von Luck was born into the old Prussian officer class. An ancestor had fought against the Tartars in the 13th century; another had served Frederick the Great in the Seven Years War. Remarkably, given such a military background, his father was a naval officer, which accounts for von Luck's birth at Flensburg. But the father's career was an aberration. Hans von Luck went to army cadet school, from where he was posted to a cavalry regiment. But from this he was uprooted and sent to one of the first motorised battalions in the Reichswehr. At first he was disappointed not to be a cavalryman, but the move ensured that he was in at the birth of Germany's formidable panzer forces. In Saxony in 1932 he met Erwin Rommel who trained him in infantry tactics.

In August 1939 von Luck's armoured reconnaissance regiment was on manoeuvres on the Polish frontier when it had its blank cartridges exchanged for live



ammunition. At 0450 hours on September 1, it rolled over the Polish frontier to begin what would, for von Luck, be more than five-and-a-half years of almost continual fighting. By the middle of September, with the Polish armies routed, von Luck's unit was in Warsaw.

For the invasion of France and the Low Countries in the following spring, he

found himself in a panzer division commanded by Rommel. The young company commander had already made an impression on the famous general, and when, on May 28, 1940, the commander of 37 Panzer Reconnaissance Battalion was killed in northern France, Rommel appointed him, over the heads of many more senior officers, to lead the unit. In the

aftermath of Dunkirk, von Luck's battalion continued the pursuit of the French Army southwards, encompassing the surrender of Fécamp without having to bombard the picturesque resort.

Von Luck's third campaign began at 4am on June 22, 1941, when Hitler launched Operation Barbarossa, the invasion of the Soviet Union. His panzer division was part of the Northern Army Group aiming for Minsk as a prelude to assaulting Moscow itself. Von Luck actually managed to insert a patrol into the suburbs of the Russian capital before counterattacks and the onset of winter flung the Germans back. By that time he knew that Rommel, in North Africa, was asking for him and, though his divisional general would not at first release him, by the spring of 1942 he was reporting to his old boss in his desert HQ.

For von Luck the fight against the British in the desert was always to be the most "sporting" contest of the war. The deep bitterness of the French campaign and the dehumanizing ethos of the Russian front, were absent. The to-and-fro nature of the struggle meant that both sides got to know each other's units — sometimes each other's personalities — quite intimately. A captured German medical officer might be "swapped" for a supply of synthetic quinine of which the British were in short supply. Towards the end of the campaign, in a Tunisian desert bivouac, a bedouin suddenly came to von Luck's tent and presented him with a letter. It was from the CO Royal Dragoons and read:

Dear Major von Luck, We have had other tasks and so were unable to keep in touch with you. The war in Africa has been decided. I'm glad to say not in your favour. I should like, therefore, to thank you and all your people in the name of my officers and men, for the fair play with which we have fought against each other on both sides. I and my battalion hope that all of you will come out of the war safe...

After the close of the Tunisian campaign von Luck spent some time in Berlin before going to Normandy where, on D-Day, he was commanding a tank regiment of 21 Panzer Division near Caen. When he saw the massive parachutists and gliders of 6 Airborne Division descending on Normandy early on June

6, 1944, he longed to counter-attack at once. But his formation was forbidden to move without a direct order from Hitler, who slept in until noon. Later, after the repulse of Goodwood, he fought his way back to the Germany's Rhine frontier and was involved in some tough fighting against the Americans in the Vosges Mountains.

Had he finished his war there, his future might have been different. But in February 1945 his panzer grenadiers were switched to the eastern front, where he was taken prisoner by the Russians in the desperate fighting on the Oder around the fortress of Königsberg in April. He then faced almost five years' grim labour in the Soviet Union, first as a coalminer, then as a building worker in the Caucasus.

He was released in the winter of 1949-50, but found his home town in ruins. His private life was in ruins, too. He had formed an attachment during the war to a girl he was not then allowed to marry, because she had a Jewish great-grandparent. By the time he returned from imprisonment her circumstances had changed. They remained friends but he found a new life as a coffee merchant, spending some time in Angola. He married and fathered three sons.

His British Staff College visits brought him into touch with Major John Howard, whom, had his unit been allowed to move forward, he might well have driven off Pegasus Bridge in the small hours of D-Day. Through Howard he met the American historian and presidential biographer Stephen Ambrose who wrote a foreword to *Panzer Commander*.

Von Luck also advised the Ministry of Defence on its 1979 instruction film *Goodwood*. He was even asked to lecture on the topic to the Swedish Military College; this small neutral state regarded his July 1944 counter-attack as a classic of its kind, with a lesson for any country that might find itself subject to amphibious invasion. Howard and von Luck were often to be seen together, both at D-Day reunions, which initially he had been reticent about attending, and at seminars arranged by Ambrose when he was a professor at New Orleans.

His wife Regina and sons survive him.

CHRISTOPHER HARLEY

Christopher Harley, landowner, died of cancer on August 6 aged 70. He was born on December 31, 1926.

CHRISTOPHER HARLEY was a country gentleman whose family has lived at Brampton Bryan, Herefordshire, since 1309, on an estate which has not been bought or sold since the Norman Conquest. Among the family's forebears are the Countess of Salisbury who had been on the First Crusade and another who had fought at Crécy.

After taking over the management of the family property and surrounding farms in 1956, Christopher Harley supervised the restoration, preservation and modernisation of every aspect of the estate, culminating most recently in the repair of the ruined medieval castle defended by his ancestor Lady Juliana Harley during the Civil War.

This was a task for which his deep knowledge of local and family history, wholly suited him. He always took great trouble in answering historical or genealogical queries from researchers or dis-



The medieval castle at Brampton Bryan, Herefordshire

tant relatives, disguising the learnedness of his replies with a gentle sense of humour and discreet manner. Born at Brampton Bryan, Christopher Charles Harley was the second son of Major Ralph Harley (his elder brother was killed in the Second

World War). He was educated at Eton and Magdalene College, Cambridge, although his education was interrupted when the school was bombed, and his mother had him brought back to Herefordshire to attend a school set up in his own home.



After qualifying as a mechanical engineer, he worked with Ricardo and Co and with International Harvester before returning to run the estate. A dedicated churchman, he served as churchwarden of his local church at Brampton Bryan for more than 30 years — occasionally taking services himself during any interregnum between appointments. He always took his responsibilities as a patron of livings extremely seriously. He was a magistrate from 1960 to 1993; a committee member of the Herefordshire Country Landowners' Association from 1988 to 1995, chair-

man from 1963 to 1967 and president from 1977 to 1986. He also served as a regional committee member of the National Trust from 1968 to 1993 and as chairman of the Herefordshire branch of the Royal Forestry Society from 1959 to 1968. He was a General Commissioner for Income Tax from 1962 to 1997. He followed generations of his family by serving as High Sheriff of the county in 1987-88 and was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Herefordshire in 1987.

Much of the delight which people found in Harley's company came not merely from his easy charm and modest smile, but also from his exceptionally wide range of interests and scholarship. His nickname, "Trees" Harley, was a tribute not just to his height (he was 6ft 5in tall) but to his passion for trees and forestry in particular. He started out as a boy by collecting pinecones and moved on to the planting of exotic conifers. He sometimes took his hosts by surprise when, on visiting locally, he would don a boiler suit after lunch and climb a particularly fine specimen of a tree to get the best seeds from the top.

He owned an exceptional collection of tree books, with the emphasis always on conifers. His plantings consistently combined character and aesthetic values with commercial considerations. He planted more than 200,000 trees. Harley's concerned paternalism allowed the estate to retain a sense of continuity and community now rare in rural England. Brampton Bryan is today one of the few English villages which can still boast a blacksmith, a wheelwright and coracle-maker, not to mention the more recent craft of making garden gnomes.

Harley's marriage in 1959 to Susan, daughter of the diplomat Sir Roderick Barclay, brought him great happiness. He died in the room in which he was born and is survived by his wife and four sons.

JOHN GUEST

John Guest, publisher, died on August 24 aged 85. He was born in Warrington, Cheshire, on October 4, 1911.

FOR ALMOST half a century, John Guest was a notable figure in English publishing, attracting to the houses for which he worked a remarkable number of established authors, who were (or were to become) his friends, as well as unknown young writers who have since made their names.

The elder son of George Edwin Guest, a well-to-do leather manufacturer, and of Jane Helen, one of the 12 children of John Boston of Liverpool, also in the leather trade, he was educated at Fenes in Edinburgh and read English at Pembroke College, Cambridge.

After a short, unhappy time in the family leather business, he moved to London, where, after knocking on various publishers' doors, he eventually obtained ill-paid employment, first as a proof reader and then as a junior editor in the long-established firm of Collins. On the outbreak of war in 1939 he enlisted in the Army and served in the North African and Italian campaigns as a captain in the 10th City of London Yeomanry. By then the "Rough Riders" were actually an artillery regiment, and Guest was mentioned in dispatches for his service with them.

He returned to Collins after the war, but in 1949 became literary adviser to Longman, with a brief to rebuild the firm's general trade list, a task he fulfilled with exemplary success. Within ten years Longman had one of the most distinguished fiction and non-fiction lists in London.

A painstaking, sympathetic and skilful editor with a sure eye for nascent talent — he spotted such authors as Richard Adams, David Storey and John Cornwell. Guest was also a distinguished writer himself. His one original



book, *Broken Images*, an impressive and moving account of his war experiences, won the Royal Society of Literature Award under the Heinemann bequest in 1949. He was subsequently elected a fellow of the society, and sat on its council for thirty years.

For a time he was chairman of the Heinemann award committees, and on the retirement of Sir Osbert Sitwell he was invited by William Plomer to take a place on the panel of judges for the Cholmondeley Award for Poetry. He edited the first anthology of the poetry and prose of his friend Sir John Betjeman under the title *The Best of Betjeman* (1978). It has been reprinted many times and has sold about 200,000 copies.

In 1972, when Longman merged with Penguin, John Guest was invited to join Penguin as literary adviser, and he remained there until

his retirement, contributing much to the firm's success.

Gregarious, entertaining and lively, he was an amusing raconteur whose fund of anecdotes — related with a slight but much-imitated lisp — never palled in the retelling. A repository of arcane knowledge and amusing gossip about the literary world and about encounters with such figures as Somerset Maugham and Edith Sitwell, he possessed at the same time many other interests, ranging from the study of pipe organs to the expert practice of photography, from natural history to music and the art of the Renaissance. He was widely travelled in Asia, Africa and Europe, having a particular devotion to Italy where he delighted in walking, as he did in the English countryside, with one or other of his many devoted friends.

He was unmarried.

PERSONAL COLUMN

TICKETS FOR SALE

ALL SEATS, Champagne, London, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 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2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 2680, 2681, 2682, 2683, 2684, 2685, 2686, 2687, 2688, 2689, 2690, 2691, 2692, 2693, 2694, 2695, 2696, 2697, 2698, 2699, 2700, 2701, 2702, 2703, 2704, 2705, 2706, 2707, 2708, 2709, 2710, 2711, 2712, 2713, 2714, 2715, 2716, 2717, 2718, 2719, 2720, 2721, 2722, 2723, 2724, 2725, 2726, 2727, 2728, 2729, 2730, 2731, 2732, 2733, 2734, 2735, 2736, 2737, 2738, 2739, 2740, 2741, 2742, 2743, 2744, 2745, 2746, 2747, 2748, 2749, 2750, 2751, 2752, 2753, 2754, 2755, 2756, 2757, 2758, 2759, 2760, 2761, 2762, 2763, 2764, 2765, 2766, 2767, 2768, 2769, 2770, 2771, 2772, 2773, 2774, 2775, 2776, 2777, 2778, 2779, 2780, 2781, 2782, 2783, 2784, 2785, 2786, 2787, 2788, 2789, 2790, 2791, 2792, 2793, 2794, 2795, 2796, 2797, 2798, 2799, 2800, 2801, 2802, 2803, 2804, 2805, 2806, 2807, 2808, 2809, 2810, 2811, 2812, 2813, 2814, 2815, 2816, 2817, 2818, 2819, 2820, 2821, 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2988, 2989, 2990, 2991, 2992, 2993, 2994, 2995, 2996, 2997, 2998, 2999, 3000, 3001, 3002, 3003, 3004, 3005, 3006, 3007, 3008, 3009, 3010, 3011, 3012, 3013, 3014, 3015, 3016, 3017, 3018, 3019, 3020, 3021, 3022, 3023, 3024, 3025, 3026, 3027, 3028, 3029, 3030, 3031, 3032, 3033, 3034, 3035, 3036, 3037, 3038, 3039, 3040, 3041, 3042, 3043, 3044, 3045, 3046, 3047, 3048, 3049, 3050, 3051, 3052, 3053, 3054, 3055, 3056, 3057, 3058, 3059, 3060, 3061, 3062, 3063, 3064, 3065, 3066, 3067, 3068, 3069

Bargains of the week: from a room with a view in Crete, a three-week camping tour of southern Africa

FLIGHTS

AIR UK launches its East Midlands to Amsterdam service on September 8 with seat sale fares. Excursions to Amsterdam and onward continental destinations cost from £79. Details: 0990 074074.

■ LUFTHANSA flights around Europe cost £59 apiece if you are a student (under 31) or are under 26. For example, to fly from Birmingham to Düsseldorf, Rome, Frankfurt and back to Birmingham costs £236. Details: 0345 737777.

■ PASSENGERS aged 65 or over qualify for a 65 per cent discount on Sabena's lowest excursion fare: London-Berlin costs £93 return. Lisbon £115 or Venice £130. Departures from London, Bristol, Leeds, Manchester, Newcastle, Edinburgh and Glasgow. Details: 0181-780 2270.

■ VLM has a London City-Rotterdam excursion for £58. Details: 0171-476 0677.

■ EMIRATES is offering flights from Manchester to Zurich for £160 return. Details from the Travelbug: 0161-740 8998.

HOTELS

THE Kalimeria Kriti Hotel on the northern coast of Crete has a special rate of 43,000 drachma (about £90) a double room a night until October 10. The offer, through Prima Hotels, includes a seaview room with a balcony or patio. Details: 0800 181535.

■ A CHAMPAGNE gourmet evening with the guest speaker, a director of Moët et Chandon, is available at the 12th-century New Hall Manor House in Sutton Coldfield, near Birmingham, on October 4. Price is £115 a person. Details: 0121-378 2442.

■ THE four-star Palace Hotel in Torquay has a half-board rate from September 14 to 30 of £50 a person a night. The offer, available through Superbreak Mini-Holidays, includes use of the hotel's indoor pool. Details: 0161-238 5257.

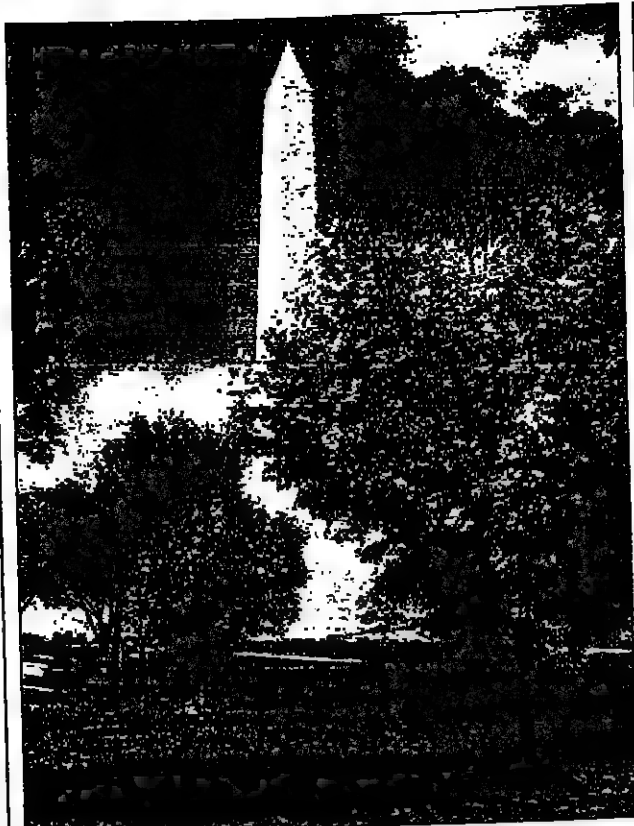
■ INTER-CONTINENTAL Hotels is launching a mid-week Leisure Options package from September 2 at more than 190 hotels worldwide. The package includes room upgrades, a second room at half price and double airline

frequent flyer points. Details: 0345 581444.

■ HOLIDAY Inn's Weekend Plus scheme, where room prices start at £36 a night across Europe, continues until September 7. Details: 0800 897121. Marriott's summer rates offer, of up to 40 per cent off normal prices, is available until September 7. Extra benefits include a 20 per cent discount on meals. Details: 0800 221222.

■ HILTON International's European Weekend breaks programme is available until the end of the year from Friday until Sunday at more than 40 of its European hotels, based on two people sharing for a minimum of two nights. Details: 0800 856 8000.

■ A 30 per cent discount on normal rates at selected Grand Heritage Hotels around the UK is available until September 22, based on double occupancy and subject to availability. Rates start at £53 a person for two nights' accommodation in an historic hotel. Details: 0171-244 6099.



Virgin Holidays says that the colours of the American flag are just as attractive in Virginia and Maryland as they are further north. The company is offering fly-drives to Washington DC for £299 from September 1 to November 30. Hotel vouchers cost from £32 a room, which can sleep up to four people. Details: 01293 61781.

FOUR-NIGHT breaks on Sark this autumn are available from Stocks Island Hotel for £295 a person, including breakfast and five-course dinner, return Southampton-Guernsey flights and boat transfers. Details: 01481 832001.

■ A SEVEN-NIGHT holiday on the Costa Dorada from £119 a person self-catering departing Manchester on October 14 is available from the Last Stop Holiday Shop. The hotel will be allocated on arrival. Details: 0541 503400.

■ CLUB MED has cut the price of a week-long break at its adults-only waterski resort at Kemar in Turkey by £205 in October. A seven-night all-inclusive package with full use of all sports costs £459.50 a person. Details: 0171-581 1161.

■ SINGLES can spend seven nights in the Italian Dolomites, including two guided half-day walks and a day on Lake Garda for £579 leaving Gatwick on September 6 with Solo's. Details: 0181-951 2800.

■ FAR EAST Travel Centre has a package offering 14

nights at the Royal Park Beach Resort in Phuket, Thailand, with Thai Airways International from Heathrow during September and October for £699 a person. Details: 0171-414 8806.

■ AFRICAN adventures at a £100 saving are available from Kumuka, with a three-week camping tour from September 20 through Zimbabwe, Botswana and South Africa costing £595 a person. Flights extra. Details: 0171-937 8855.

■ A GUIDED seven-day walking holiday in Ireland is available through Sherpa Expeditions, departing on September 20, for £495 a person. The price includes "five guided walks, picnic lunches and opportunities for a taste of Irish culture in the evenings". Flights extra. Details: 0181-571 2717.

■ PIRATES WEEK, a Caribbean carnival in Grand Cayman from October 24 to November 2, can be savoured on a Kuoni holiday from £661 a person, including flights and accommodation. Details: 01306 742222.

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LEISURE Direction has two-night chateau breaks in September and October from £84 a person, to include ferry crossing and entry to Monet's gardens at Giverny. Details: 0181-324 4041.

■ HOVERSPEED has three-day return tickets for £55 until August 31 for a car and up to five passengers between Folkestone and Boulogne. Details: 0990 240241.

■ STENA Line has day-trips from £14 for a car and five passengers on its Newhaven-Dieppe route, until August 31. Details: 0990 707070.

■ STUDENTS heading for Scandinavia can save 25 per cent on ferry fares on production of an international Student card. Scandinavian Seaways also offers student savings on rail travel. Details: 0990 333000.

■ AUGUST 31 is the closing day for holidaymakers to book a standard P&O Ferries return on Dover-Calais through the travel agency AT Mays to receive a free five-day crossing. Details: 0990 000888.

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All-in holidays cause upset

By LINSEY MCNEILL

THERE is mounting concern about food hygiene standards in the increasingly popular all-inclusive resorts springing up around the world.

Environmental pressure groups also claim that the developments encourage tourists to stay in their own isolated compounds, cutting local people off from any potential economic benefit.

More than half the 820,000 Britons who go on holiday to the Caribbean this year will stay in hotels and developments where food, drink and entertainment are included in the package price. And similar schemes are now opening from the Far East to the Mediterranean.

Stuart Henderson, a lawyer, won compensation from the tour operator First Choice when 115 holidaymakers caught food poisoning at an all-inclusive resort in the Caribbean. Now, he claims, he is acting for a further 12 groups, involving others companies, that allegedly got food poisoning at all-in resorts in the Dominican Republic earlier this year, and 140 people who became ill while at a similar resort on Margarita Island in 1995.

"We are not just talking about getting upset tummies — some of these people were quite seriously ill, some have had to be hospitalised, and up to 10 per cent have developed life-long medical problems, such as irritable bowel syndrome, as a result of unsafe food preparation in these resorts," he says.

"This may be because at all-inclusive hotels meals are often buffets, where food is left

out for hours and often reheated. Also, we have evidence that in some cases tap water is used to water down drinks, and I do wonder whether costs at this type of hotel are being passed to the bone."

As hoteliers rush to convert to all-inclusives, Mr Henderson believes there could be further outbreaks of food poisoning in countries previously considered safe.

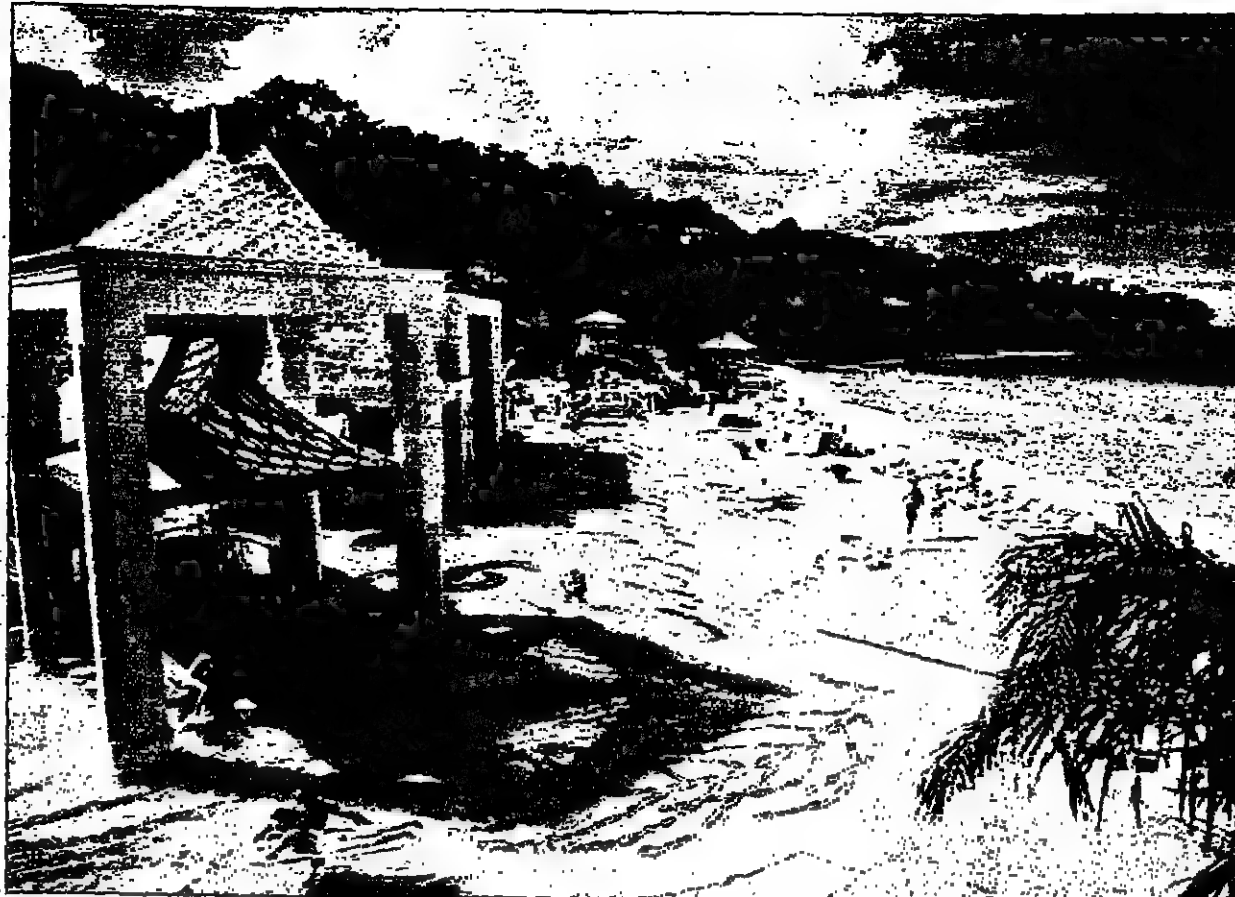
Patricia Barnett, director of the charity Tourism Concern, says the fact that those who book an all-in holiday spend little, if any, money in the country they visit is causing a rising tide of resentment in many destinations.

"All-inclusive resorts deny the local economy the opportunity to become involved in tourism," Ms Barnett says. "The claim is fiercely denied by the tour operators, including the Caribbean's leading all-inclusive group, Sandals."

"We employ 4,500 local staff, buy in huge quantities of food and drink from the local farmers and we alone provide 10 per cent of Jamaica's foreign currency earnings," says Elaine Vaughan, the sales director.

"Clients in all-inclusive resorts actually spend far more on local trips, souvenirs and attractions than those in an ordinary hotel — especially if they are on a budget."

The British are particularly keen on visiting the local area so it is simply wrong to say they do not bring benefits," Adrian Clark, administrative director of the Tourism Society, adds. "All-inclusives offer convenience and good-quality holidays, but the



Paying their way? The Sandals resorts in Jamaica employ 4,500 local staff and buy in food and drink from local farmers

downside is that holidaymakers lose their independence and they often do not go beyond their resort."

Tour operators insist that good all-in packages represent the best value for money for the holidaymaker. Prices start from as little as £399 for a week in the Caribbean.

"They offer clients a cheaper alternative to half-board packages, and they allow holiday-

makers, particularly families, to budget for their trip before they leave home," says Francis Tortilla, marketing director of the holiday company Inspirations.

Flying Colours claims a holidaymaker on a two-week package to the Caribbean could save up to £1,000 on food, drink and sports facilities by staying at an all-inclusive resort. Airtours says

that a quarter of all its clients now choose all-inclusive holidays. Tourist boards are also generally in favour of the all-inclusive concept, arguing that by lowering the overall cost of a holiday, it attracts more visitors.

News that three British women may have caught typhoid while staying at an all-inclusive resort in the Dominican Republic last

month is not expected to discourage holidaymakers from booking similar deals.

"This is an unfortunate and isolated incident and as yet we don't know whether these women caught typhoid in their hotel or from a local restaurant," says Padilla Tones, the Dominican Republic's Ambassador in London.

● The women's tour operators fear see Saturday's travel pages.

Eurostar security checks to stay

By STEVE KEENE

EUROSTAR passengers have been caught in a crackdown on bogus asylum-seekers at the Paris rail terminal.

A new passport check was introduced 12 days ago, slowing down the movement of passengers after ticket check-in and before security gates at Gare du Nord station.

But Eurostar officials insist they have no immediate plans to extend the current 20-minute check-in rule at Paris, despite the added security precautions. "It seems as if the new pre-board checks will stay," said the spokesman.

There are also no plans to change the 10-minute check-in offered to travellers buying £370 Premium First tickets.

But heightened security at Gare du Nord could alarm passengers, particularly those on business, whose main criteria for travel is speed of check-in and travel between Paris and London.

Eurostar is locked in a battle with airlines to attract premium traffic: Up to 25 per cent of Eurostar passengers are on business, and its new Premium First fare matches that charged by airlines for fully flexible tickets.

The latest figures also show that the initial appeal of Eurostar has worn off with airlines reporting that loss of passengers to rail has stabilised. Air France says figures for Paris are down by 22 per cent on 1994. British Airways has suffered less, down by less than 10 per cent on pre-Eurostar figures.

And while "point-to-point" figures may be down, AF and BA have seen overall traffic on the route grow as connecting traffic volumes have increased through Paris Charles de Gaulle and Heathrow airports, respectively.

Sabena reports a 47 per cent growth in traffic between the UK and Belgium in the first six months of 1997, almost entirely because of connecting traffic through Brussels.

It is generally acknowledged that Eurostar appeals mainly to business travellers from central London or within easy access to Ashford, Kent. Those west of London or flying from the regions have stuck to the airlines.

Another reason for the leveling off of losses to Eurostar, according to an Air France spokesman, is the fact that the rail service has now matched airlines on price. Eurostar's Premium First to Paris costs £370, exactly the same as AF and BA.

"In the early days, Eurostar did a lot of deals on price that tempted business travellers to try out the service. Now that it costs the same, the numbers switching to rail have stabilised," says a spokesman.

Bald eagle in boycott call

By NICK NUTTALL



The bald eagle: one of America's rarest and most celebrated birds

BRITISH holidaymakers are being urged to boycott charter flights by airlines such as Airtours, Britannia and Leisure International which use Orlando-Sanford airport in Florida.

The call, by conservationists in the sunshine state, follows the felling of a nest housing one of America's rarest and most celebrated birds — the bald eagle, the country's national symbol.

The Florida Audubon Society, founded in 1900 and one of America's oldest wildlife protection groups, says in the past five years the airport has changed "from a place where grass grew through the cracks in the runways into a destination for hundreds of thousands of British tourists in jumbo jets".

The airport authorities want to build more runways to handle the increased traffic, but say protesters, construction will threaten sensitive environmental areas, including wetlands and endangered species.

The society is urging holidaymakers to pick flights going to Orlando International, which it claims is more convenient for the key attractions of central Florida, including Disney World and the MGM Studios.

The dispute came to a head with the destruction of the eagle's nest, which

was in the path of one of the proposed runways.

The airport authority claims the nest was a "public safety hazard". The Audubon Society, however, insists that the airport and state wildlife officials have broken the law in allowing the felling, which took place earlier this month.

Last week the state's Game and Freshwater Fish Commission accepted that there should have been a public hearing and that a permit should have been issued for the nest destruction. The Audubon Society is considering legal action.

Members fear that other bald eagle sites in the area, called Seminole County, could be at risk. The county is home to 40 active nests, and seven eaglets fledged during the 1996/97 nesting season, according to the Audubon EagleWatch Programme and the commission.

Federal aviation statistics show that collisions between aircraft and eagles are rare. Most reported damage comes from waterfowl and gulls.

Charles Lee, the society's senior vice-president, says: "We can't figure out why the airport decided to destroy

the eagle's nest when there has never been an airliner accident with eagles in Florida. We think that all the airport officials wanted to do was construct a bogus safety issue to justify destroying the nest and avoid having to redesign the proposed runway."

"If you want to help the bald eagles, check with your prospective carrier — choose one that flies to Orlando International."

Britannia says that congestion has become so bad at the old airport that it has been forced to switch to Sanford. "It was hot and overcrowded," said a spokeswoman. "Since we moved to Sanford the satisfaction rating has gone up dramatically."

"We reckon we are a very environmentally aware airline and take conservation matters extremely seriously. This is really a battle between the Orlando airport authorities and the local environmental groups."

Jack Wert, tourism director for Seminole County based in Heathrow, Florida, says: "We do not want any situation to deter holidaymakers from coming here."

He said that there were no eagles in the nest when it was felled and that the birds would return to another, less hazardous, site.

Britons cruise the Channel in luxury

By STEVE KEENE

A NEW generation of potential cruise-ship customers are cutting their teeth on cheap cross-Channel excursions.

Sunias, restaurants, casinos and swimming pools, which are more typically found on Caribbean cruise ships, have flourished on luxury cruise-ferry ferries heading for France. With prices as low as £9, thousands of Britons are taking advantage of low prices to experience a taste of the high life at sea.

Britany Ferries and P&O European Ferries have invested heavily in ships operating from Portsmouth, Poole and Plymouth, in order to lure holidaymakers away from cheap prices offered at Dover.

While prices are generally double those of Dover or Le Shuttle, the two companies

argue that the longer routes save driving time to the west coast holiday playgrounds while allowing drivers to break their journey.

Their move has also created a spin-off market for short, ship-based cruises. Stephen Shaw, the finance director of Brittany Ferries, says: "What we had to do with the longer routes was to make the experience more pleasurable. Instead of charging down the autoroute, people could relax with a glass of wine. We are now offering a lot of mini-cruises, which appeal to people who simply want to go there and back. It has become a recognised product."

Britany will next week launch £9.95 fares for 24-hour excursions on its Poole-Cherbourg route. The offer will be

available on other routes from September 15 until Christmas. The company has invested £350 million on three ships operating to Caen, St Malo and Cherbourg. Last year, the AA gave five-star awards for on-board facilities and services to the Val de Loire, Bretagne and Duc de Normandie.

Cinemas, restaurants and playrooms are standard on all ships. The ten-deck Val de Loire, which operates a 24-hour crossing to Santander in northern Spain, also boasts a swimming pool.

P&O's *Fride of Le Havre*, operating from Portsmouth, has four restaurants and a bar, plus casino, pool and sauna. Both companies also offer entertainment, with magicians often wandering the ship to entertain children.

Foot passengers to Le Havre or Cherbourg can travel with P&O for £9, with up to 36 hours allowed in France.

With extensive duty-free facilities on board, and abundant markets in the French ports, Britons are taking the opportunity to combine a ferry cruise with shopping.

A sample P&O itinerary may be travelling out from Portsmouth on the 10pm sailing, arriving in Le Havre at 7am and leaving at 4pm, arriving home at 8pm.

Both companies also sell three-day tickets, with P&O currently offering fares of £59 (booked by September 12 for travel by the 14th) to Le Havre and Cherbourg, to include a car and two passengers.

P&O European Ferries (0990 980880); Brittany Ferries (0990 360360).



We love Volga boatmen

RUSSIA'S Volga and Neva rivers are now the third most popular rivers in the world for British holidaymakers, says Harvey Elliott writes. More than 15,000 Britons sailed on the two waterways last year compared with 10,000 on the Danube, 5,000 on the Rhine and 2,000 on the Mississippi, according to the Passenger Shipping Association.

The growth in demand for cruises in Russia has helped to triple the popularity of river cruising over the past five years. At least 144,000 people will take a cruise this year, compared with only 44,000 in 1992, according to Bill Gibbons, director of the PSA.

Almost half the 70,000 who cruise the Nile will travel with Thomson. The lifting of the Foreign Office ban on travel in middle Egypt has enabled operators such as Swan Hellenic to reintroduce its 600-mile Nile cruises between Cairo and Aswan.

The second most popular river is the Rhine. Coming up fast are the Yangtze, the Douro in Portugal, the Amazon, the Irrawaddy in Burma and the Po in Italy.



How to travel without moving

Hundreds of would-be pilots have staggered white-faced from a converted barn in a Yorkshire village after happily handing over at least £120 each to discover just what it is like to be in control of a Boeing 737 jet.

The simulator at the Yorkshire Flight Centre, near Harrogate, like those that every commercial airline pilot must visit every six months, is so realistic that many "pilots" forget completely that they are in a run-down farm building in the village of Arkendale, near Knaresborough, and

thousand feet over San Francisco, for example, before flying under the Golden Gate bridge on the way to hotel rooms they don't even have to check into. The company is creating other such "trips", including London, Tokyo and Kyoto.

Already the site is visited by more than a million Internet users a year. Some are looking for information on a particular city but many, the company says, are doing it "for fun".

So tourists' feet need no more destroy the temples of Greece and Rome. Virtual vacationers will be able to visit the Acropolis when the light is at its best and there are no tour groups blocking the view.

Travellers who could never hope to climb Mount Everest or Kilimanjaro could walk effortlessly up the slopes without the help of oxygen or heavy backpack. For a price, anyone could dive to the bottom of the sea or watch the sunset from a Caribbean shore — in 3D.

There will be no problems with nasty insects or tropical diseases. Those who prefer to stick to home-grown food will not have to choose from incomprehensible menus or have to shout to make themselves understood in a foreign tongue.

The new technology will, of course, be far superior to the simple television pictures or Internet images generally available today, and will ensure that travellers experience the sounds, and even the smells, on their virtual journeys.

Be would you not rather be on that sunny beach or in some exotic place? I suspect all this virtual travel will only generate more demand for the real thing by whetting appetites.

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- LEBANON: Now is the time to see the wonders of Baalbek and Byblos, before the tourists return
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY AUGUST 28 1997

Board stands by strategy
of chief who walked out

Troubled WH Smith rules out break-up

BY PAUL DURMAN

WH Smith, the stores group that recently lost its chief executive, has ruled out breaking itself up into its constituent businesses as a way out of its present difficulties.

Jeremy Hardie, chairman, said the board remained committed to the strategy it embarked on under the leadership of Bill Cockburn, who controversially quit after only 18 months to take up a senior job with British Telecom. That did not involve the sale of any more businesses, or a break-up.

Analysts have suggested that the designer of the main store chain from Smith's other businesses, including Waterstones' book shops and Virgin Our Price, the music chain, could release £500 million more than the group's current stock market value of about £1.1 billion. Mr Hardie said: "There's a huge gap between doing that arithmetic"

described as four-year turnaround.

Mr Hardie said none of the four candidates interviewed for the post had suggested that Smith's strategy was wrong. The candidates include Stuart Rose, who recently left Burton, and Alan Giles, John Hancock and Richard Handover, respectively the heads of Waterstones, Smith's US businesses, and the group's magazine and newspaper distribution business. It is believed a decision will be made shortly.

The group announced a 39 per cent improvement in underlying pre-tax profits to £124 million. Mr Hardie said this was at the low end of City expectations because a £6 million write-off of slow moving music, videos and books in the main retail business, which is regarded as the group's main problem.

The recent Budget changes on the taxation of dividend income prompted Smith to write off £73 million of previously recognised profits arising from its lengthy pension fund contribution holiday. This cut pre-tax profits to £51 million. Last year the group incurred a loss of £194 million, the first in its 200 year history.

Profits at WH Smith Retail rose from £41 million to £43 million on sales 1.5 per cent higher at £788 million. In the first 11 weeks of the current year, sales are up 3 per cent, or 2 per cent on a like-for-like basis.

Across the group as a whole, the first 11 weeks' sales are 9 per cent higher, or 7 per cent like-for-like. This encouraging start helped Smith's shares to recover early losses, closing 9p higher at 376p.

Waterstones' increased profits a third to £20 million on sales 11 per cent higher at £200 million. Virgin Our Price saw a £4 million decline to £14 million because of a lack of big releases. However, this half will be helped by the new Oasis album, which sold 104,000 copies through Virgin Our Price on its release date last Thursday. WH Smith Retail sold a further 42,000 copies over the first three days.

The news distribution business raised profits £9 million to £44 million, helped by £4 million of cost savings.

WH Smith will pay a final dividend of 10.4p a share to maintain the total at 15.65p.



Hardie: "huge gap"

which takes about four minutes, and thinking it's a good idea."

Keith Hamill, finance director, denied suggestions that he had been "hawking" the idea of a break-up around City institutions. But he was more circumspect than Mr Hardie when asked if he was in favour of such action, saying that "what the board will decide to do through an orderly process is what Jeremy has outlined. That is a formulation that the entire board has agreed."

Meanwhile, it emerged that Mr Cockburn has agreed to waive the £35,000 or so he was due to receive in salary next month, before joining BT in October. Mr Cockburn has been criticised for walking out on the company only 18 months into what he had



Carl Lewis opting for pedal power yesterday with Trialtr's dual action mountain bike

Trialtr wheels out a champion

CARL LEWIS, the US Olympic sprint champion, is the big-money name promoting a tiny company that says it wants to float on London's junior stock market (Adam Jones writes).

Trialtr wants to join the Alternative Investment Market and raise £1 million from a placing through Cheviot Capital, valuing it at £4.25 million.

It has international rights to make and sell a mountain bike that can also be propelled by pulling on the handlebar. The bike will be sold through the QVC television shopping channel and other outlets.

Trialtr, about 70 per cent owned by its directors, said its operations made a profit of £56,000 for the nine months ended June 30. It claims it could make profits of £1875 million before tax.

Commentary, page 25

Fidelity's flagship fund to turn away investors

BY PAUL DURMAN

FIDELITY MAGELLAN, the world's largest pooled investment fund, is to turn away new investors to prevent itself from growing more unwieldy.

The fund, the US flagship of Fidelity Investments, of Boston, had net assets of almost \$63 billion (£39 billion) at the end of last month. This is more than the total funds managed by all but the biggest British investment and insurance groups, and is 20 times the size of the largest UK investment trust, Foreign & Colonial.

The size and reputation of Magellan, with its 4.3 million customer accounts, means that its actions are closely watched by followers of the US stock market. It can trigger big price movements when it

changes its thinking on industry sectors.

Fidelity has said it will accept no new accounts for Magellan after the end of next month. It believes that the fund may be about to become more difficult to manage because of an anticipated flood of new money, prompted by a substantial improvement in the fund's investment performance since Bob Stansky took over its management in June last year.

Inflows have already picked up noticeably in recent weeks. Robert Posen, president and chief executive of Fidelity Management & Research, said that limiting access to the fund would allow Mr Stansky to "continue to manage the

fund in the most effective manner for its shareholders".

The decision not to close to new investors until the end of next month is itself likely to encourage a rush to invest. Fidelity said it believed this notice period would be sufficiently short to prevent an unwieldy rush of inflows.

Magellan suffered a year of poor performance in 1995, prompting a wave of criticism of Fidelity, which responded with a series of management changes. In all, Magellan has 463 holdings in US companies, including giants of the industry such as General Electric, Philip Morris, IBM, Oracle and Microsoft.

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BT and MCI stand firm on advisers' fees

BY ERIC REGULY

BRITISH TELECOM and MCI are refusing to increase the fees paid to their advisers even though the merger of the companies had to be renegotiated and is substantially delayed.

BT and MCI, America's second-largest long-distance phone company, disclosed in a US Securities and Exchange Commission filing in March that they expected to pay about \$118 million (£74 million) to financial and legal advisers, accountants and printers.

The largest single amount, \$47 million, was to be paid by BT, whose advisers were Rothschild Inc of New York, its sister company NM Rothschild & Sons in London, and Morgan Stanley, the Wall Street bank. Linklaters & Paines

handled the legal work in Britain. In spite of pressure from the advisers, BT is expected to keep the fee schedule largely intact. The advisers began working on the merger in mid-1996 and their work effectively doubled this summer, when MCI put out a surprise profits warning. The price was reduced by more than 15 per cent.

The transatlantic merger ranks among the lengthiest and most complex in corporate history. One BT official said: "I remember walking into a room and it was wall-to-wall lawyers. There must have been 25 of them. I asked Iain Vallance [BT's chairman], what the collective noun for lawyers was, and he said 'a suit'."



Vallance: "a suit of lawyers"

Shell to shake-up its forecourt service

BY FRASER NELSON

SHELL will today announce that it is to ditch up to 30 of its 50 forecourt suppliers as part of an internal shake-up designed to create a new breed of "convenience store" forecourts.

The company, whose petrol profits have been hit by a forecourt price war, is to award a £100 million contract to Hays, the logistics company, and introduce a new range of own-label products. Shell will take direct control over every product it orders for its forecourts. Hays will distribute 90 per cent of its goods.

The reforms will affect each of the petrol company's 850 wholly owned forecourts, most of which are open for 24 hours. City-based forecourts will

specialise in chilled food, while motorway stations will sell fast food that can be consumed in a car. Shell is currently negotiating the purchase of Gull's 450 outlets. The 800 Shell service stations under private ownership are to be given the option as to whether they accept the new system.

BP last month scrapped its smaller suppliers and agreed a similar arrangement with Hays. However, BP handed the management of its forecourt stations over to Safeway on the ground that, as a petrol retailer, it was ill-equipped to understand the food retailing market.

Tempus, page 26

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FTSE 100	4906.9	(+20.6)
Yield	3.27%	
FTSE All share	2213.22	(+7.28)
Nikkei	18441.94	(-373.04)
New York		
Dow Jones	7741.34	(+40.88)
S&P Composite	908.88	(+1.14)

US RATE		
Federal Funds	8.50%	(5.50)
Life long gilt	9.87%	(9.87)
Yield	6.54%	(6.55)

LONDON MONEY		
3-mth interbank	7.1%	(7.1%)
6-mth interbank	7.1%	(7.1%)
3-mth bill	114%	(114%)

STERLING		
New York	1.6100*	(1.6115)
London	1.6118	(1.6127)
DM	2.9170	(2.9036)
FF	9.8242	(9.7882)
SP	1.4889	(1.4848)
Yen	161.50	(161.15)
S index	105.7	(105.5)
Tokyo close Yen 118.84		

NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Nov)	\$18.55	(\$18.40)

GOLD		
London close	\$324.85	(\$324.85)
* denotes midday trading price		

Widening

Britain's trade deficit widened in June, providing firm evidence that the strong pound is hurting exporters.

The global trade deficit increased from £733 million to £950 million as import growth, boosted by the consumer boom, outstripped growth in exports.

Building up

Marley, the construction company, expects house building activity in Britain to remain unaffected by the four interest rate rises since the General Election.



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DOMINICK HUNTER, the filtration systems manufacturer, yesterday reported a 9.1 per cent rise in pre-tax profits from £4.2 million to £4.6 million in the six months to June 30. Turnover was £31 million (£26 million) and earnings per share were 9.1p (8p). An interim dividend of 3.168p (2.88p) will be paid on October 17. The company said it had made a strong start to the second half, although the strength of sterling would affect performance. It expects satisfactory full-year results.

Commentary, page 25

The north-south divide is still evident in union membership, with more than 40 per cent of workers in the north of England and Wales members compared with just 23 per cent in the south of England excluding Greater London.

0171-782 7344

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s. 22 of the TRUSTEE ACT 1925 that any person having claims against or an INTEREST in the TRUSTS of the deceased person's who names, addresses and descriptions are set out below should be prepared to stand party in writing to the proceedings in relation to the interest in the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified in which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed to the personal representative naming the persons existing claiming regard only to the claims of the persons which they have had notice.

PUBLIC NOTICES

GRANTY COMMISSION
 Charley E. Grant, General Laventrot
 in connection with the Lawson
 Cheespie Foundation
 Scheme for the regulation of the
 Church.
 Ref: **PC-30606123502P**
 C.D.N.
 Mr. C. Granty Commission
 have made a Scheme for the
 charity. A copy can be sent for
 the next month at Lyons P.D.
 Banking Limited, Regional
 Estates and Tax Office, The Close
 House, 22/26 Oak Street
 Birmingham, CEN 0X14 5W or can
 be sent by sending
 stamped addressed envelopes to
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 Maynard, London SW1K 4Q.
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TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS
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PLEASE TELEPHONE
0171 680 6878
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Notices are subject to
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TIMES

Still grim reading at WH Smith



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

When Bill Cockburn gracefully walked out on his £425,000 a year job as chief executive of WH Smith Group two months ago, he left his shareholders £100 million of stock market value. Despite his departure, 18 months into what he had described as a four-year turnaround, the books and music retailer is determined to stick to the strategy that he had devised. Should investors be as sanguine as Jeremy Hardie about this?

The issue for WH Smith remains the same as ever: how does it make money from its flagship chain in the high street? Mr Hardie, the chairman, insists there is a big market for a mainstream store specialising (specialising) in books, videos, music and stationery — all areas where the group has market shares of 20 per cent or more, although this includes the Virgin. Our Prie music stores and Waterstone's book shops. He insists that WH Smith can be and is being turned around.

The trouble is, we only have his word for it. It is impossible to discern any significant improvement from yesterday's full-year results, which show the profits from WH Smith Retail creeping ahead from £41 million to £43 million, with sales rising by only 1.5 per cent. It was being suggested in some quarters yesterday that this understates the true improvement because Beverly Hodson, the newly appointed (and therefore still unproven) managing

director, has insisted on £6 million of stock write-downs. But a year ago Mr Cockburn was claiming that by focusing on a narrower range of stock, the group was freeing up the equivalent of 50 new stores. There is certainly no evidence of the sort of substantial improvement implied by those remarks, and Mr Hardie concedes that not all Smith's store innovations have proved successful. The answer, he says, does not lie in a new format for the stores. It is much more mundane, and involves better buying, tighter stock control and generally more efficient organisation.

Well, we will see. In the meantime, Mr Hardie has ruled out the option of breaking up the group. His most pressing job is to select Mr Cockburn's successor from the highly publicised list of candidates. Mr Hardie says. In interviews, none of the four has suggested the group's strategy is wrong — but then, in the circumstances, that is perhaps hardly surprising. Stuart Rose, formerly of Burton, is currently without a job, and the other three confirmed candidates are internal barons. It is also clear that Keith Hamill, Smith's generally well-regarded finance director, does not share

Mr Hardie's conviction that the group should rule out a break-up. It is true that the main problem facing the group seems to require retailing skills but it still seems odd for the ambitious Mr Hamill to rule himself out of the race for the top job — unless he is unwilling to agree to the terms on which it is offered.

Is Mr Hardie keeping Smith's options open, or is he essentially seeking a yes-man? Shareholders should find out.

Smaller firms take the best option

Thanks to the meddling of those who see the corporate governance debate as a career opportunity, major companies have been encouraged to find ever more complicated ways of incentivising their management. The details of directors' bonus schemes and their various long-term incentive

plans can now spread over several pages in annual reports.

But it seems it is only the big boys who have succumbed to the deliberations of the Greenbury Committee, the expensive advice of that latest breed of corporate piranha, the remuneration consultancy.

The cheering news is that the majority of quoted companies outside the Footsie are sticking with share option schemes as the means of motivating managers.

They are not stupid to see the merit in keeping things simple. Share options provide a straightforward way of harnessing the

desires of investors, surely the essence of what most shareholders want from good corporate governance, even if the demands of PIRC's Anne Simpson and her colleagues go somewhat further.

There are issues over the level at which options should be priced and the number that

should be issued, but the principle of turning managers into long-term shareholders has obvious logic.

New research shows that the number of FTSE companies now relying solely on share options has dropped from 22 per cent to 17 per cent in the last year, with a consequent increase, no doubt, in the fees paid to remuneration consultants and the boardroom time devoted to the subject of pay. In the next tier of the stock market, however, an overwhelming 82 per cent of industrial and service companies are sticking loyally to share options, and share options alone.

Major investors may have been persuaded that something more is needed if key individuals are to be tied into companies for several years but loyalty that cannot be bought by a raft of manuring

share options is hardly likely to be secured by any more complicated scheme. The only sure beneficiaries of the schemes are the

consultants who are paid to devise them. Perhaps it is an indication of their own suspicions that the market for expensive advice may be drying up that one major consultancy, Monks Partnership, has produced a 100-page study entitled: *Long Term Rewards — Choosing the Right Plan. Yours for just £195.*

Pleasure palaces to please planners

According to that strange breed known as "futurists", we were supposed to be heading for a period of "cocooning", in which, seared of what was going on outside, we would cling to our hearths and indulge in comfort food.

But not yet. Spending on entertainment outside the home is soaring to record levels, with cinema attendances now double the level to which they had recently sunk, restaurants erupting in unlikely places and, regrettably, a glut of ghastly formulaic new pubs.

The huge leisure complex is today's sought-after investment. But, while the punters may be enthusiastic about such develop-

ments, planners tend to be less than happy about playing host to a pleasure palace unless the scheme is a dramatic improvement on what was there before.

On the basis of this simple truth, property people are becoming increasingly enthusiastic about the prospects for two companies that have already made their mark on the English landscape, Blue Circle and RMC. The cast-off of the first is already being turned into Bluewater Park, the upmarket new shopping centre in Kent. The second can claim responsibility for Thorpe Park, scene of many a princely splashing on the log flume.

Both could provide sites for more imaginative developments for the public pleasure. Fill in a pit with water, line up the jet skis, and away you go. Surely only the meanest planner would find fault with that.

Marshall law

SIR Colin Marshall has surprised many with the ease with which he has given up his hands on role at British Airways. Now he has a raft of other involvements, ranging from drumming up investment for London through London First to a host of directorships. But as BA admits that, having been buffeted by strike action, it is now turning away business at Heathrow, is it time for Sir Colin to be just a little less of a non-executive chairman?

Rate rises will not hit new homes, says Marley

BY OLIVER AUGUST

MARLEY, the construction materials company, expects housebuilding activity in Britain to remain unaffected by the four consecutive interest rate rises since the May general election.

Tony Alexander, chairman, said: "During the remainder of the year, we expect new housebuilding activity in the UK to be maintained at the current level and favourable trading conditions to continue in most of our overseas markets."

Prices for some of Marley's key products are likely to go up by the end of the year, Mr Alexander said. "With clay and concrete product prices up by 10 per cent and an increase in housing in the South East

and the West Midlands, we are expecting a busy autumn."

Marley yesterday unveiled an 11 per cent increase, to £29 million, in pre-tax profits before exceptional items. The results were adversely affected by the strong pound, which inflicted £2.3 million in translation costs. Mr Alexander said: "Almost three quarters of our earnings are coming from overseas."

While the UK market is still only just recovering from the severe recession of the early 1990s, trading conditions in most overseas markets improved significantly in the first half, compared with a year earlier. On top of the higher activity, foreign subsidiaries also improved their financial results through increased efficiencies, Marley said.

The only "disappointment" in overseas markets was South Africa, which saw only slow growth. Mr Alexander said. America and Germany were the best-performing subsidiaries. The growth in Germany came as a surprise. Most analysts still regard the German construction sector as the sick man of Europe.

Marley is continuing to pursue its strategy of overseas expansion and hinted that it is looking for small bolt-on acquisitions. The company purchased the Flexco commercial flooring business of Robbins Inc. in America, for £24.8 million earlier this month. Marley said that the acquisition, which is aimed at expanding its plastics business, will be completed on tomorrow. Mr Alexander said: "With the clearance of US regulatory requirements, the agreement is now unconditional."

Marley's interim dividend, to be paid on October 31, was left unchanged at 2.1p, but the company said that it expects to increase the final dividend. Earnings per share went up from 4.2p to 5p. Pre-tax profits after exceptional items fell to £24.5 million, from £63.2 million.

Tempos, page 26

James Keen

Our report (September 25, 1996) "UBS fined over concealed £9m losses" dealt with the outcome of disciplinary proceedings brought by the Securities and Futures Authority against UBS and two of its traders, one of whom was James Keen. We wish to make it clear that the SFA never suggested that Mr Keen deliberately concealed losses or conducted secret trades, or that he acted dishonestly. We apologise for any embarrassment caused if our report was understood to suggest otherwise.

Topps up

Topps Tiles, the chain of specialist tile shops that came to the market in June, lifted pre-forma pre-tax profits 25 per cent from £2 million to £2.5 million in the year to May 31. Adjusted pre-forma earnings per share were 10p (6.5p), with current like-for-like sales growing 16 per cent.

Beales blow

Beales Hunter, the refrigeration and electrical components company, suffered a fall in pre-tax profits to £2.11 million (£3.28 million) in the year to May 31. Earnings fell to 14.2p a share from 21.8p. The final dividend is maintained at 7.8p a share, leaving the total unchanged at 10.7p.

Keller ahead

Keller, the ground engineering business, reported a modest 2.2 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £4.7 million (£4.6 million) for the six months to June 30. Earnings were 5.2p (4.7p) a share. An interim dividend of 2.1p (1.95p) will be paid on October 31. The group's overseas divisions disappointed.



Mike Hennessy was delighted by the popularity of Kalon's Deval wallcoverings

Lower costs furnish Kalon with a record

BY FRASER NELSON

KALON, the decorative paints producer that bought Eureded two years ago, has returned record profits after resolving the retooling difficulties that arose from the merger.

The company, whose managing director is Mike Hennessy, returned pre-tax profit of £24.4 million (£19.6 million) in the six months to June 30, as it commanded lower raw material costs. Popularity of its Deval wallcoverings lifted UK operating profit 53 per cent to £12.6 million. However, the loss of some retail label business held UK sales growth at 5 per cent to £96 million.

Its core French division mounted a strong recovery as new centres opened in Nice and Bordeaux, taking margins up from 5.5 per cent to 6.7 per cent — still behind the 10.4 per cent achieved across the group. Success in Hungary allowed its international division to lift profits by 36 per cent to £4.6 million.

Overall, earnings were 4.2p (3.7p) a share. An interim dividend of 2p (1.7p) is due on October 8.

In spite of its efforts to hedge against the strength of sterling, currency fluctuations wiped around £27 million from group turnover, leaving the overall figure at £243 million (£277 million). The company still generates some 60 per cent of its sales from overseas.

Credit Suisse rises before merger vote

BY ADAM JONES

CREDIT SUISSE, the Swiss banking group, which will become one of Europe's largest financial services companies after completing its merger with Winterthur, the insurer, announced a 19 per cent rise in interim profits yesterday.

In the first half of 1997, profits before tax and exceptional items were SF1.68 billion (£700 million). The bulk came from Credit Suisse First Boston, the investment banking arm, which contributed SF1.3 billion before tax and exceptional items. The investment bank's costs rose 40 per cent because of

Gas competition worries rejected

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

COMPETITION in domestic gas is to start in Scotland and the North East on November 1 against the wishes of the Gas Consumers Council and many gas companies.

Clare Spotswood, the gas regulator, has rejected claims that the system is not ready to cope with the roll-out of competition to another 25 million households. Administrative and technical problems have already occurred in southern England. The programmes have also been dogged by aggressive marketing by rivals to British Gas Trading. The gas regulator also set

Communication executive goes at Securicor

BY ERIC REGULY

SECURICOR, the security and mobile phone group, yesterday announced the departure of the head of its struggling communications division and promised management changes as the business is restructured.

Edmond Hough, chief executive of the communications division and a group director, has left the company by "mutual agreement". It was known that Roger Wiggs, Securicor's chief executive, had been seeking for some time to replace him.

The communications division comprises 40 per cent of Cellnet, the second-largest mobile phone company, and the telecoms service businesses in Britain and America.

Lately, Mr Hough had been spending most of his time in America, where Securicor's Intek business has been rolling out a new low-frequency wireless network that is used by some emergency services.

The American communications businesses will now re-

port directly to Mr Wiggs, while the British businesses will report to Christopher Shirdcliffe, finance director.

Mr Hough's departure coincides with the rise of Robert Shriver, the American, who has been appointed chairman and chief executive of Intek. Mr Shriver will assume many of Mr Hough's responsibilities.

Securicor's earnings forecasts were downgraded after the company took a series of provisions. It took 40 per cent share of two charges, totalling £65 million to cover the costs of a faulty billing system that was installed this year at Cellnet.

In addition, it took a £16 million charge relating to a change in the amortisation policy of subscriber recruitment costs.

Securicor shares, which have been underperforming the market since last year, closed at 264p, down 11 1/2p.

Tempos, page 26

CHESHIRE BUILDING SOCIETY

6-MONTH'S GROUP RESULTS (UNAUDITED)

	6 months to 30th June 1997 £'000s	6 months to 30th June 1996 £'000s
Net interest receivable	14,583	15,588
Other income and charges	4,320	4,344
Total income	18,903	19,932
Administrative expenses	8,927	8,198
Operating profit before provisions	9,976	11,734
Provisions for loans, Advances and guarantees	806	1,280
Profit on ordinary activities	9,170	10,454
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	2,890	3,450
Profit for the half year	6,280	7,004
Gross capital	133,417	121,887
Total assets (£m)	1,724m	1,558m

The Group results as above are unaudited

HIGHLIGHTS

- Asset growth for the half year of 5%
- Net retail receipts and net mortgage lending both well above market share
- Mortgage losses have been reduced significantly and this trend is also reflected in our lower level of mortgage arrears
- Our capital position has remained at a high level, notwithstanding the impact of reduced interest margins and good asset growth
- The strength of our capital and low administrative expenses should enable the Society to compete successfully and demonstrate to its members, the benefits of membership

Paul Hughes, Chief Executive, commented:

"The Cheshire is the largest regional society in the North West and reports another strong performance for the first half of 1997. We continue to place an operational core business activities and this has enabled the Society to increase its share of the savings and mortgage markets."

"Mortgage losses have been reduced significantly and this trend is also reflected in our lower level of mortgage arrears."

"Our capital position has remained at a high level, notwithstanding the impact of reduced interest margins and good asset growth."

"The strength of our capital and low administrative expenses should enable the Society to compete successfully and demonstrate to its members, the benefits of membership."



Cheshire Building Society
Castle Street, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 6AF.

Hammicks plans franchised chain

BY CHRIS AVRES



Hammicks hopes to open 50 shops within five years

HAMMICKS, the bookseller, yesterday unveiled plans to shake-up the book trade by creating up to 50 franchise shops over the next five years.

The move will triple the size of Hammicks and provide stiff competition for independent bookshops in market and commuter towns.

The company, whose preferred suppliers include Little, Brown and HarperCollins, said the shops would have the regular features, but also the advantage of Hammicks's bulk-buying power.

Trevor Gool-Wheeler, managing director of Hammicks, said: "I believe

we are about to revolutionise the book trade. There are many people who would love to have their own bookshop, but book retailing is complex."

He said there were about 3,000 independent bookshops in Britain, stocking a wide range of books and providing a high standard of customer service.

Hammicks's plans were given a cautious welcome yesterday by Sydney Davies, of the Booksellers' Association. "Small bookshops are under pressure anyway from chains such as Waterstone's, which are moving into market towns," he said. "There is no

reason why a franchise chain should not succeed, and it already works well in a country like Sweden."

Hammicks was founded by Charles Hammick in 1968 and today has 25 high street outlets, a turnover of £29 million and 300 employees.

The company will train its franchisees and provide them with help, information and advice. They will share central services such as buying, marketing, administration and accounting.

Franchisees will need initial capital of about £60,000, with a total investment of about £165,000.

STOCK MARKET

CLARE STEWART

Rank shares get a lift from Bass bid interest

RANK, the Budlins to bingo group, whose shares have been largely seen as bombed out recently, hit better form yesterday as they were pushed 14½p higher to 360p.

On another quiet day with buying interest generally muted, Rank benefited from faint whispers of bid interest from Bass. Weaker sterling and shortage of stock, as Rank continues its buyback programme, were also said to be behind the rise.

Talk of interest from Bass was given a hesitant reception. "Rank is vulnerable and anyone that comes in with a reasonable offer would probably get their hand bitten off by investors," said one analyst.

But in spite of the attractions to Bass, up 15p at 827½p, of parts of Rank, such as its holidays division and the Hard Rock Cafe group, the whole package was not rated as particularly desirable to Bass.

Trading followed another uncertain course yesterday, with little institutional activity to provide momentum. After a wobbly start, with the index off nearly 17 points in early trading, a stronger futures market helped to propel the FTSE 100 back through 4,900, to rise 34 points at its best.

The market drifted lower after Wall Street's weaker opening, and at the close the FTSE 100 stood at 4,906.9, up 20.6. Volumes were very thin, however, with just under 520 million shares traded by the market close.

The utilities were the latest to see their shares buoyed by talk of buybacks. Among the best performers were National Power, which rose 10p to 557½p, PowerGen, up 10½p at 775½p and Scottish Power, 5½p higher at 443½p. Among water stocks, Severn Trent put on 12p to 866½p.

The weaker pound helped to cheer a raft of international groups higher. These included GEC, up 3p to 382p, with TI Group 9p higher at 602½p and British Aerospace climbing 1p to £14.48½.

Banks were again in demand, with a fresh bout of bid speculation helping Abbey National to add 16½p to 839p. Barclays jumped 10p to £14.14, while Lloyds TSB was ahead 15p to 739½p.

Strong figures on unit trust sales helped Schroders to climb 4½p to £18.05. Standard Chartered gave up further ground with a 16½p slide



Rank's Hard Rock Cafe is seen as an enticement for Bass

to 977½p, while among life assurance groups, Norwich Union rose 10p to 345½p, with buying by tracker funds ahead of the group's inclusion in the FTSE 100 said to be boosting the share price.

Securicor ended 11½p lower to 26½p after the departure of Ed Hough, head of its communications division.

Pharmaceutical stocks enjoyed a number of rises.

Zeneca rose 15p to £19.56, with Glaxo Wellcome adding 17p to £12.40½. Chiroscience, among the smaller drug stocks, rose 19p to 303½p. Scott's Holdings closed 12½p better at 320p. SmithKline Beecham was off colour, however, with its shares marked 8½p lower at 526p amid busy trading.

Among retailers the best gains were seen by Marks &

Spencer, up 14p to 591p, with Boots ahead 18p to 817p and Next 11p higher at 771½p.

Shares in WH Smith recovered from an early fall as the group reported year-end figures at the low end of forecasts. The shares revived, to end 9p higher at 376½p, with more than three million traded.

Insurers finding support included Commercial Union, which rose 9½p to 734½p and GRE, up 16p to 282p. Carlton Communications lost 14½p to 495p after reports that the end of the Channel 4 funding formula will cost it £31 million. Just behind Carlton in the listing of FTSE 100 worst performers was BT, down 9p to 404½p, with 31 million shares traded, as the MCI deal was given further consideration.

Reckitt & Colman was bought up ahead of its interim figures, due out today. It ended at 981½p, up 12½p. Unilever, tipped as a possible predator for Reckitt & Colman, was 18½p lower at £17.80.

Rolls-Royce, also reporting today, rose 4½p to 254½p. The group announced a £46.6 million engine order from Continental Airlines.

Imperial Tobacco ended a penny firmer at 394½p, while BAT created 51½p to 527p and Gallaher lost 5p to 181½p. Kalamazoo Computer edged 9½p higher at 85p, having finished 29p in trading earlier in the day. The rise was fuelled by news of Reynolds & Reynolds, the US group, taking a 22 per cent stake in Kalamazoo.

British Borneo, the oil exploration group, rose 14p to 473½p after its acquisition of a 60 per cent stake in the Allegheny field in the Gulf of Mexico. A buy recommendation helped Enterprise Oil to climb 5p to 694½p.

GILT-EDGED: Trade data led the gilt market largely unmoved and at the close the September series of the long gilt had eased back ½p to £114.93½, with 78,500 contracts completed.

At the short end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 ended 1½p lower at £102.13½, while Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was off ½p to £109.13½.

NEW YORK: Wall Street was weaker after shares tumbled more than 70 points and then drifted back. By midday the Dow Jones Industrial average was down 40.85 points at 7,741.34.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 7,741.34 (-40.85)
S&P Composite 408.88 (-1.41)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 18,441.94 (-373.04)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 15,533.95 (-13.27)

Amsterdam:
EEX Index 907.33 (+3.89)

Sydney:
ASX 2,626.50 (+0.20)

Frankfurt:
DAX 3,995.66 (+0.33)

Singapore:
Straits 1,915.96 (+0.24)

Brussels:
General 1,332.59 (-7.16)

Paris:
CAC-40 2,871.70 (+2.44)

Zurich:
SIX Gen 1,170.40 (+7.93)

London:
FTSE 100 4,906.9 (+20.6)

FTSE 250 4,046.6 (+0.4)

FTSE 350 2,767.2 (+8.8)

FTSE 100 Index 4,906.9 (+20.6)

FTSE All-Share 2,767.2 (+8.8)

FTSE 100 Financials 2,321.83 (+6.44)

FTSE 100 Industrials 2,321.83 (+6.44)

FTSE 100 Services 2,321.83 (+6.44)

FTSE 100 Utilities 2,321.83 (+6.44)

FTSE 100 Pharmaceuticals 2,321.83 (+6.44)

FTSE 100 Technology 2,321.83 (+6.44)

FTSE 100 Consumer Goods 2,321.83 (+6.44)

FTSE 100 Energy 2,321.83 (+6.44)

FTSE 100 Media 2,321.83 (+6.44)

FTSE 100 Telecommunications 2,321.83 (+6.44)

FTSE 100 Real Estate 2,321.83 (+6.44)

FTSE 100 Healthcare 2,321.83 (+6.44)

FTSE 100 Financial Services 2,321.83 (+6.44)

FTSE 100 Insurance 2,321.83 (+6.44)

FTSE 100 Banking 2,321.83 (+6.44)

FTSE 100 Investment 2,321.83 (+6.44)

FTSE 100 Asset Management 2,321.83 (+6.44)

FTSE 100 Private Equity 2,321.83 (+6.44)

FTSE 100 Venture Capital 2,321.83 (+6.44)

FTSE 100 Hedge Funds 2,321.83 (+6.44)

FTSE 100 Private Debt 2,321.83 (+6.44)

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FTSE 100 Real Estate Investment 2,321.83 (+6.44)

New course for Magellan

HOW do you invest \$63 billion? This is more than an academic problem for the managers of Fidelity's Magellan fund whose sheer size is on a par with the market capitalisation of Glaxo Wellcome. Yesterday, Fidelity decided to close the US mutual fund to new investors, citing heavy investor cash inflows as a cause for concern.

Magellan's recent history has been about as stormy as the eponymous Straits at the tip of Latin America. A former captain of Magellan, Jeffrey Vinik, jumped ship last year after a controversial change of course from shares into bonds. His decision caused the vessel to drift into the doldrums at a time when the Dow was soaring. A new fund manager, Bob Stansky, has restored Magellan's stature with a focus on growth stocks but the problems do not end there.

Fidelity likes to pick stocks — an approach to investment that requires managers to take a view on markets and interest rates. Jeffrey Vinik did just that but he got it wrong, not unlike his peers at our very own PDMF. But for a fund the size of Magellan, outperforming the market is even more difficult. A mere 1.5 per cent shift in asset allocation involves the reinvestment of \$1 billion, not the stuff of discrete stake-building.

Closing the fund to new money eases the pressure on Magellan's fund managers to find homes for the cash that accumulates in a bull market. Surely it would be more sensible to turn Magellan into an index-tracking fund? Investors who choose to back stock-pickers are inevitably backing the market wisdom of one manager who can at best have a cursory knowledge of a \$63 billion portfolio.

Securicor

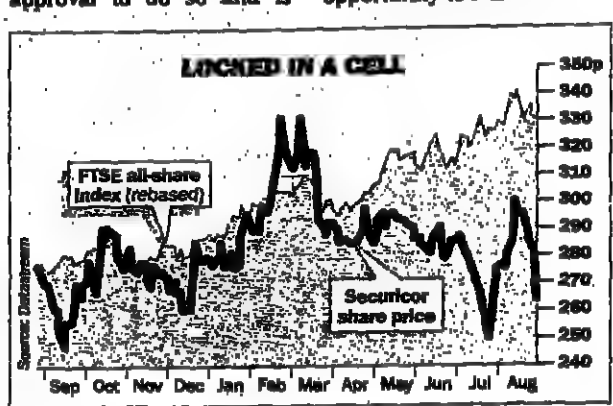
SECURICOR has always been held hostage by Cellnet, the mobile phone business in which it has a 40 per cent stake. When Cellnet was growing rapidly in the early to mid 1990s, Securicor grew with it. Now that Cellnet has fallen on hard times, Securicor is underperforming the market. A turnaround for either company is unlikely in the near future.

In this year alone, Cellnet has lost its managing director and has taken two charges, totalling £65 million, related to the installation of a bug-riddled billing system that may have to be ripped out. Furthermore, Orange and One-2-One, Cellnet's smaller rivals, are recruiting high margin digital customers at a much faster pace. Rumours suggest that Cellnet will drop its

prices in an effort to boost its customer numbers. This could trigger a price war. Securicor shareholders always held out hope that BT, which owns the other 60 per cent of Cellnet, would save the day by purchasing the rest of Cellnet at a good price.

But BT lacks regulatory approval to do so and is

currently more preoccupied by its merger with MCI. In the end, a break-up might yield more value — some analysts reckon the sum of the parts is worth 300p but who wants to be a minority partner in a troubled cellphone business? Shareholders should use any rise in the share price as an opportunity to sell.



Shell

FAST FOOD in the forecast is the right strategy but, unfortunately, Shell is the wrong company. Belatedly, Shell has come round to the view that petrol retailing is a mere prop for the serious business of selling higher-margin food and drinks to bored motorists. Shell will not reveal the performance of its UK marketing business, but the whole petrol retailing industry in the UK is thought to have lost some £500 million last year.

Instead of contracting, Shell is investing, buying up Gulf's petrol stations and taking a more pro-active role in retailing fast-moving consumer goods. This should improve the pitiful returns from marketing petrol but investors should question why Shell is investing more in retailing when both it and its industry have such a poor track record in selling fuel profitably. At least BP acknowledged the problem

when it roped in Sellafield to run its forecast shops.

A brave oil company would rid itself of the burden of retailing a commodity product in the developed world where the environmental lobby ensures that petrol brands carry negative goodwill. Yet Shell cannot easily pull out of marketing fuel in Britain when it carries the cost of running two major refineries.

Europe is awash in petrol and Shell needs outlets for its production. Shutting down the Shell Haven refinery might be even more expensive than running a chain of moderately profitable roadside sweetshops.

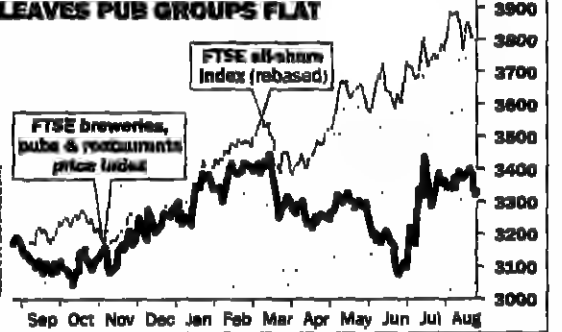
Marley

WHEN last followed boom in the UK housebuilding market, Marley looked abroad. Today three quarters of earnings come from overseas but the move proved painfully expensive. The strong pound has taken a large chunk out of Marley's profits.

Meanwhile, the overseas diversification strategy has paid off. Marley will still suffer from converting foreign profits into sterling but it loses nothing in competitiveness. The swings and roundabouts of currency are hardly a reason to change a long-term investment strategy. Sceptics had warned

EDITED BY CARL MORTIMER

BREWERS: LACK OF FIZZ LEAVES PUB GROUPS FLAT



Bass rose 15p to 327½p, but Whitebread was left languishing yesterday as its shares retreated 11½p to 797p on talk of lower beer sales. Scottish & Newcastle, which has its annual meeting today, closed down 8½p at 723½p, while Vaux dipped 4½p to 284p.

The share price weakness follows the lacklustre trend seen across the brewing, pub and restaurant sector, which has lagged the FTSE all-share index this year. A number of factors are cited for its poor performance.

Martin Hawkins, an analyst with Greig Middle-

ton, said: "There have been plenty of dynamic performances from more specialised outlets, but the core, traditional pub businesses continue to suffer."

Mr Hawkins is, however, fairly positive on the sector, though he says that there is still a long way to go in the pub retailing revolution. His buy list includes Scottish & Newcastle, but he adds that "there is a field of undervalued opportunities among smaller stocks". These include Wolverhampton & Dudley, Mansfield Brewery and Regent Inns.

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Tarnished tigers still burn bright



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Salute an extraordinary economic achievement. One of the past two decades the number of people in East Asia officially classified as poor has halved. As the World Bank claims with some feeling, this rate of progress is virtually unprecedented in human history. If there was ever any lingering doubt of the power of market-led enterprise to drive economic progress anywhere round the world, this one statistic surely clinches it.

The bad news is that the World Bank's official definition of poverty is extremely low, equivalent to surviving on roughly \$1 a day in today's money. And nearly 350 million people, more than in any other region, are still eking out such a marginal existence.

Three quarters of them are in China, the rest mainly in the more remote parts of other big empires such as Indonesia. These are often people of racial minorities, loathed by the centre. Outside Japan, \$1-a-day poverty has been abolished only in a few East Asian countries, notably in Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan. And as skilled workers earn bigger differentials, the relatively poor become a bigger cultural threat.

Few would bet against progress being repeated on a similar scale over the next dozen years. China's enterprise revolution, though rattling up huge levels of production and trade, is only in its infancy. And other parts of the region are held back by war or repression, whose perpetrators may eventually realise what they are missing.

Asian tigers such as South Korea, Taiwan and Malaysia, which grasped the baton of export-led growth from Japan in the 1970s, are becoming wealthy, high-grade economies. When the currencies are in the right part of the sky, income per head of small economies such as Singapore and Hong Kong is fully comparable with most EU members states.

There are problems. Even the

bigger economies are equivalent in size and potential only to individual European countries. Collectively, they are dwarfed by China. As medium-sized economic powers, they must increasingly look over their shoulders. They are vulnerable to the vicissitudes of world markets. They must fear the threat to their markets from China, the bigger, cheaper newcomer as the next generation. They also face the perils of making the transition to a mature economy, which are still causing so much angst in Japan.

This vulnerability is being brought home by the currency storms now hitting the region. They began in Thailand, which had seen enormous manufacturing growth but on a less secure base of domestic savings than others. A modest downturn soon produced a domestic financial crash and sent foreigners scut-

ting. The baht has tumbled a third against the dollar, sending Thailand for a \$17 billion package from the International Monetary Fund.

The battle of the baht has been followed by attacks on the currencies of Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Taiwan, South Korea, Singapore and, briefly, even on Hong Kong's well-backed dollar. Dr Mahathir Mohamed, Malay-

sia's combative Prime Minister, has blamed George Soros and claimed that he had political motives. The businessman of the foreign exchanges has hotly denied it.

Some of the attacks have little apparent logic, save that speculators cannot distinguish one economy from another. But the combination of current trade deficits and heavy inward investment, typical of developing economies since the early growth of America, can leave a currency in the lurch if confidence suddenly evaporates.

IMF packages come with tough conditions, especially on rampant state spending. Even without the IMF, involuntary devaluations will force retrenchment all round South East Asia, setting back the living standards of those hundreds of millions who are, by World Bank standards, no longer poor. Conglomerates are collapsing, restrictive tariffs are being dusted

down, projects are being shelved. Dr Mahathir has a point when he complains that the IMF should have been better prepared after the Mexico peso debacle. Medium-sized countries need some counterweight to the immeasurably bigger combined forces of speculators, if they are not to be forced into EU-type regional currency unions.

Setbacks on the foreign exchanges are, however, rarely damaging for long. They can have the same painful but beneficial effect as the periodic blizzards on costs to take out the fat in a business.

The longer-term challenge is to work out how your country can ride the economic rollercoaster driven on by each new country or continent that joins the competitive world. And to start moving that way, Singapore has long planned to be the Switzerland of Asia, a project that has brought disavowed such as pushing wages up ahead

of a world recession. On the whole it has worked.

Today, Singapore is trying to wire up its whole economy to the information revolution. South Korea is seeing its industrial structure creak without having a new one for the next phase.

There seems little point in medium-sized countries such as Britain, even within the EU, merely aping what is happening in the Far East. Still less is there cause to cut real wages to cut costs, a forlorn proposition given those 250 million Chinese yet to enter the economic mainstream. The tigers do not, on the whole, believe that they are in conflict with the new generation. The rich, if they rely on trade, have to build their own monopolies: of invention, creativity, quality and brand marketing.

That is easier if you are small and lack the relatively poor who become more angry and troublesome as economies become wealthier. The City would make a highly competitive country. The challenge is to bring three or four more sectors to the same standard.

Wigan's peerless alpine proposals have sparked avalanche warnings

Dominic Walsh
on fears that the burgeoning leisure park industry may be riding for a fall

Wigan may not have a pier but it could soon boast its very own alpine ski village. The public's appetite for indoor leisure pursuits has developed to the point where a leisure park is operating or proposed in every large conurbation in the UK. But the £150 million scheme unveiled this month by Wigan Council and Moorfield Estates is seen by some as the first sign of potential indulgence.

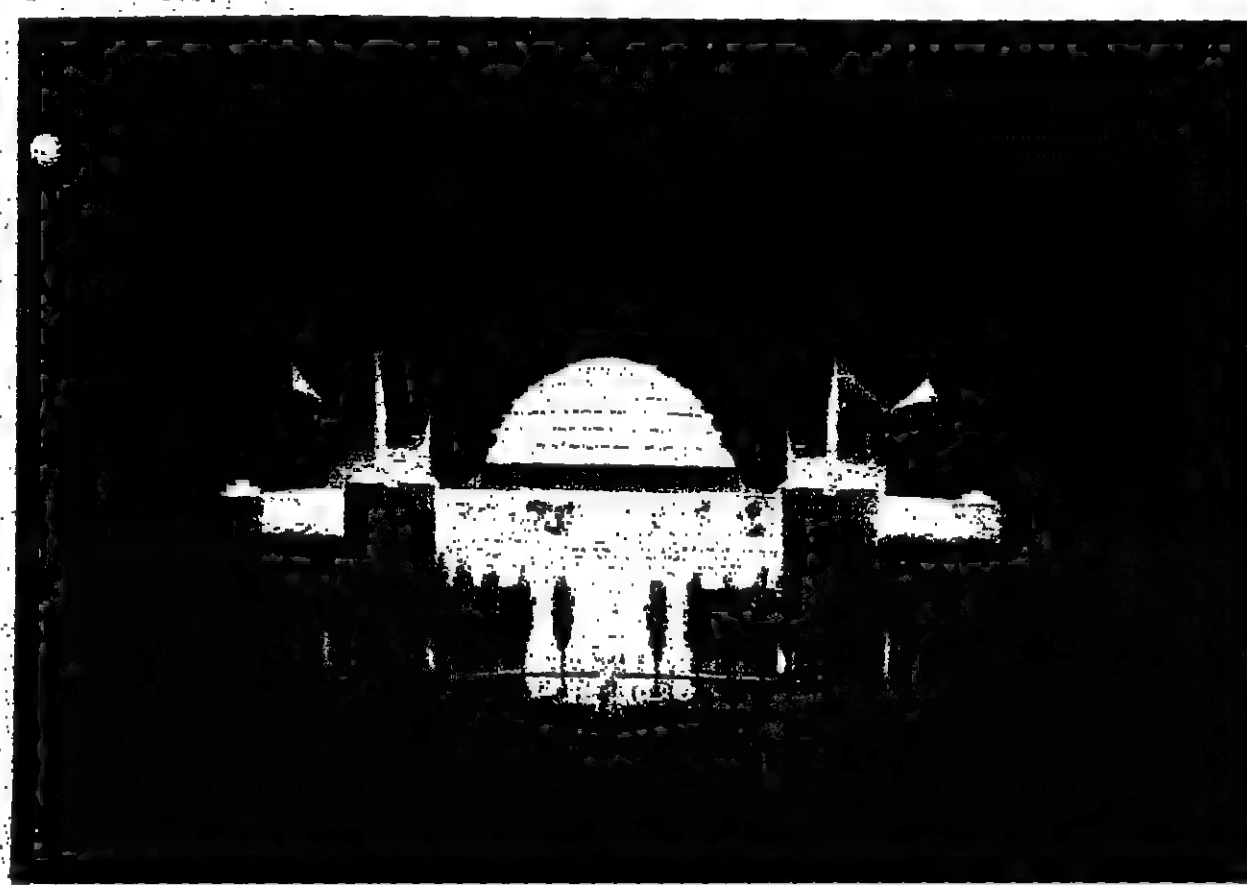
It is the sheer scale and breadth of the proposal, billed as the largest in the UK, that is causing alarm bells to ring. The 70-acre complex in Leigh, to be known as Xanadu (after Kublai Khan's fabled Chinese palace), will be housed in a 75-metre-high domed building the centrepiece of which will be a 375,000 sq ft "real" snow skiing slope and alpine village.

The proposal talks of creating a "cinematographic-style screen-based virtual reality experience" and megaplex cinema as well as an aquadrome, hotel and a host of shops, restaurants and bars.

The site, according to Wigan Council, which owns most of the land, is to create a flagship development in the North West that will attract five million visitors a year and "increase the reputation of the region across the world".

One leading leisure consultant said: "This is horribly reminiscent of some of the crazy schemes of the late 1980s that were based around things like indoor hang-gliding centres. Some of the artists' impressions had to be seen to be believed, but most of them remained just that: artists' impressions."

John Sloane, borough planning officer for Wigan, admits the scheme is ambitious but he is adamant that the scale of the plan is merely a response to market demand, with the de-



Wigan Council believes that the proposed Xanadu leisure development will attract five million visitors a year

velopers calling the shots. "There's always got to be a first in any field," he said. "After all, there had never been a major shopping centre before on the scale of the MetroCentre [in Gateshead]."

The key to the scheme's success, according to Moorfield Estates, is its location between Manchester and Liverpool, providing an estimated catchment of 20 million people within a 90-minute drive. Marc Gilford, managing director, said there had already been strong interest from the big leisure and retail operators and he is confident of pre-letting a substantial proportion of the scheme as it goes through the planning process. "Once a major part of the development is pre-let, finance for a scheme of this nature and quality will be readily securable," he added.

Moorfield has submitted a planning application in conjunction with Greenbank Partnerships, a developer based in Wigan, and has brought in Acer Snowmex, a subsidiary of Hyder, the Welsh water and

electricity group, to develop the sliding facility.

Peter Gwilliam, a chartered surveyor specialising in the leisure property field, said successful leisure parks are generally based around a multiplex cinema with restaurants and bars, and complementary attractions such as health and fitness, bingo and ten-pin bowling. He said: "The multiplex is the all-important anchor, but where they start to get overcomplicated and over-ambitious you begin to ask questions."

The proliferation of multiplexes — there are currently more than 80, with around 30 on leisure parks — has been driven by the turnaround in cinema attendances. But Mr Gwilliam warned that the multiplex cinema market was rapidly approaching saturation. By the end of the year the total will have reached 100, and there another 50 or so at various stages of the planning and development process, all of them as part of leisure parks. "Traditionally multiplex operators have resisted

relatively low levels of crime compared to a year ago.

One aspect of leisure parks that does not appear to be a problem is funding, although the size of the schemes tends to exclude the smaller funds.

According to a recent briefing note by Weatherall Green & Smith, the surveyor, there is a potential £500 million of leisure demand from institutions, and with a small supply of completed parks and a finite number of proposed parks prices are likely to rise.

Among the biggest investors are MEPC, Norwich Union, owner of the recently opened Kings Park in Stevenage, and the British Airways Pension Fund, which has purchased the new Cardiff Bay leisure park.

One of the biggest players is Marylebone Warwick Balfour, which has put together a £125 million leisure fund.

The biggest potential barrier to the growth of leisure parks, according to Mr Welch, is in the area of planning consent. Government moves to limit the number of out-of-town developments are having a major impact, with several big schemes having been called in and developers moving to smaller sites closer to the centre of town.

He said: "We are likely to see more in-town multi-level schemes based on US-style multi-entertainment centres where the emphasis is on greater sophistication of design." Proposals of this type are in the pipeline in several cities, including Manchester, Glasgow and Newcastle.

While the Wigan development appears unlikely to meet too many planning obstacles, recent trends would suggest the scope for more Xanadu-style developments may be limited.

partner in charge of leisure at Jones Lang Wootton, the property adviser, said: "Security is one of the major issues. A number of institutions have become slightly concerned when nightclubs are opened within the leisure parks. Most of their income comes from the sale of alcohol and it can create a different atmosphere."

Simon Leadbetter, of developer Marylebone Warwick Balfour, said that the provision of a safe, clean and attractive environment is essential.

Mr Leadbetter added that while closed-circuit TV cameras might draw attention to a potential crime problem, an open approach was reassuring to both tenants and customers alike. He cited the example of Tower Park in Poole, Dorset, which highlights in its promotional literature the fact that all public areas are protected by 24-hour security cameras and personnel. In addition, trees have been thinned down and floodlighting increased to make the car park more visible, helping to halve the

going head-to-head in a catchment area, but we're beginning to see that slip," he said. "Where that has happened there are already warning signs that trading is suffering."

Another potential problem is security, particularly at leisure parks with so-called family entertainment centres, which look set to become a feature of many of the proposed new parks.

Bas, First Leisure and Allied Kunkin are all developing centres with motion simulation rides and virtual reality technology. THI, the leisure group that has pioneered leisure parks, believes it is only a matter of time before they replace the cinema as the anchor for parks in some locations.

But without strict security they have the potential to become hangouts for bands of youths and gangs, and some investors are worried about the effect reports of stabbings and drug dealing are having on some centres. James Welch,

leisure collection of small hotels distinguished by that anonymous, bland service the company does so well. A campaign for cut-price breaks this summer in the press is illustrated with a welcoming timber-framed country house. This is just recognisable from the sign as the Star Inn at Alfriston, a rather pretty village in East Sussex — something of a flagship for the brand but not, alas, included in the offer. A shamefaced Forte source admits: "It was a genuine mistake. The Star was originally in the special offer, and then asked to be removed from it, for their own reasons."

on good works, ecologically speaking. Some then goes to the regulator, whose job is to decide which bodies are worthy enough to receive the cash.

My informant says sourly that administrative costs should at this rate consume all the proceeds of the landfill tax by the summer of 1999. Not so, says Richard Sills, chief executive, who expects an inflow of funds very shortly as the administrative year ends. I seem to recall this tax was claimed by the last Government as one of its few genuinely green initiatives. We will have to watch its progress.

□ A PLAINTEXT cry from the City Brasserie, virtually the only occupant still at Plantation House, which is due for demolition next spring. Bookings are down, and the famous queue for the cloakroom is not to blame this time. "A lot of people seem to think we have gone," says general manager Susannah Jackson. But the amount of work needed around the corner at the New Corn Exchange means the Brasserie will have to stay where it is almost until the demolition crews move in.

Inn is out
EMBARRASSMENT at Forte and its Heritage hotels, a mor-

BUSINESS LETTERS

Block votes disenfranchise Sids

From Mr Noel Falconer
Sir, I stood as an outside candidate for the board of British Gas at its last AGM, alongside eight directors seeking re-election, and 83,222 shareholders — a majority of the members who voted — supported me. Their holdings were overwhelmed by those of the institutions, but still amounted to some 30 per cent of the shares voted.

In any fair electoral system this would have secured one seat from those eight or nine. Only, if Parliament were appointed as are plc directors, the entire electorate would vote in each constituency, so that whichever party secured a majority, however marginal, would occupy the Commons totally, without a single opposition MP. Similarly, the institutions appoint every member of every board with their block votes, effectively disenfranchising Sids by the million.

Predictably, the Hampel report neglects this. Small shareholders were excluded from Sir Ronald's committee, as they were from Cadbury, I and II and Greenbury, its predecessors, for all of which I volunteered. Craving power, Labour undertook to assemble a more representative expert panel on corporate governance. In power... nothing.

Foxes are guarding the henhouse, and being indulged in their abuses.

Yours sincerely,
NOEL FALCONER,
223 Bramhall Moor Lane,
Snickpot, Cheshire.

Supply strategy devalues brand

From Mr James M. Griffiths
Sir, Adidas UK has acted naively in its decision not to supply Tesco directly. It is insulting to the Great British public that Adidas feels its brand is unsuitable for sale in an environment that so obviously suits such a large number of consumers.

This strategy is localised and is different from Adidas distribution in Europe and the US, where a variety of channels retail Adidas merchandise.

Managing distribution channels is key in the success of a strong brand. This action effectively fuels a grey market which threatens all Adidas retail outlets and devalues the brand. Surely working constructively with Tesco and proactively managing the market would be more beneficial to all the brand, the specialist chain, the multiple and the consumer.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES M. GRIFFITHS,
Casa de Campo,
Begur, Spain.

Taxpayers victims of 'rotten choice'

From Mr Michael Gray
Sir, By an interesting coincidence the front page of the business section on August 19 gave two examples of how Government robs taxpayers of money. First, we gave £320 million to subsidise Asfordby colliery only to see it close two years later. Secondly, the profits generated by Stagecoach bus and train services demonstrate the cheapness with which taxpayers' assets were sold.

Will this Government do any better? It looks set to subsidise another motor works at our expense to create jobs while curbing the use of cars. Since cars are built to last longer than ever, yet must soon be used less, it will not be long before taxpayers have to fund the closure of most factories.

Why are electors offered such a rotten choice of governments?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL GRAY,
Fairfield, Hillcrest Park,
Exeter, Devon.

Edging in

FEAR and loathing at HSBC James Capel, which hasn't been the same since when the affable Peter Quinnen used to run the show. The broker is suffering an invasion of personnel from NatWest. Douglas Baker, head of market making, is at NatWest, and has just brought in two former colleagues. Jim O'Donnell, chief executive officer, is an old NatWest hand, while sales, under James Rowell, has brought in a handful of, yes, NatWest types, with rumours of more to come. Capel long-



Peter Quinnen ran James Capel in a more affable way



the sharia is better than of history or etymology. He lived in the 8th and 9th centuries. He named algorithms and algebra; logarithm comes from the Greek.

Rubbish pile
DIRTY dealings down on the rubbish dump: the Environmental Trust Scheme Regulatory Body has had to raise administration fees from 1 per cent to 5 per cent after just a year of life because the nation's landfill operators have not been passing on the landfill tax they have been levying on dumpers of rubbish. The money is supposed to go to various worthies to be spent

on good works, ecologically speaking. Some then goes to the regulator, whose job is to decide which bodies are worthy enough to receive the cash.

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MARTIN WALLER

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UK Racing Syndicate

THE TIMES THURSDAY AUGUST 28 1997

Shares close below their best

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Company	Price	Change
AB InBev	10.12	+0.01
Asahi	1.12	+0.01
Beck's	1.12	+0.01
Brewery	1.12	+0.01
Carlsberg	1.12	+0.01
Heineken	1.12	+0.01
Kaiser	1.12	+0.01
Miller	1.12	+0.01
Orkla	1.12	+0.01
Pilsener	1.12	+0.01
Sankey	1.12	+0.01
Stout	1.12	+0.01
Tate & Lyle	1.12	+0.01
Watson	1.12	+0.01
Wheat	1.12	+0.01
Yeast	1.12	+0.01

BANKS

Company	Price	Change
Bank of America	10.12	+0.01
Bank of Canada	1.12	+0.01
Bank of China	1.12	+0.01
Bank of India	1.12	+0.01
Bank of Japan	1.12	+0.01
Bank of Korea	1.12	+0.01
Bank of London	1.12	+0.01
Bank of Mexico	1.12	+0.01
Bank of New York	1.12	+0.01
Bank of Paris	1.12	+0.01
Bank of Russia	1.12	+0.01
Bank of Scotland	1.12	+0.01
Bank of Singapore	1.12	+0.01
Bank of South Africa	1.12	+0.01
Bank of Sweden	1.12	+0.01
Bank of Switzerland	1.12	+0.01
Bank of Taiwan	1.12	+0.01
Bank of Thailand	1.12	+0.01
Bank of United Kingdom	1.12	+0.01
Bank of Vietnam	1.12	+0.01
Bank of West	1.12	+0.01
Bank of World	1.12	+0.01

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

Company	Price	Change
Asahi	1.12	+0.01
Beck's	1.12	+0.01
Brewery	1.12	+0.01
Carlsberg	1.12	+0.01
Heineken	1.12	+0.01
Kaiser	1.12	+0.01
Miller	1.12	+0.01
Orkla	1.12	+0.01
Pilsener	1.12	+0.01
Sankey	1.12	+0.01
Stout	1.12	+0.01
Tate & Lyle	1.12	+0.01
Watson	1.12	+0.01
Wheat	1.12	+0.01
Yeast	1.12	+0.01

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

Company	Price	Change
Alcoa	10.12	+0.01
Boeing	1.12	+0.01
General Electric	1.12	+0.01
IBM	1.12	+0.01
Intel	1.12	+0.01
Microsoft	1.12	+0.01
Oracle	1.12	+0.01
SAP	1.12	+0.01
Siemens	1.12	+0.01
Unisys	1.12	+0.01
Veritas	1.12	+0.01
Wang	1.12	+0.01
WorldCom	1.12	+0.01
Xerox	1.12	+0.01
Yahoo	1.12	+0.01

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

Company	Price	Change
AB InBev	10.12	+0.01
Asahi	1.12	+0.01
Beck's	1.12	+0.01
Brewery	1.12	+0.01
Carlsberg	1.12	+0.01
Heineken	1.12	+0.01
Kaiser	1.12	+0.01
Miller	1.12	+0.01
Orkla	1.12	+0.01
Pilsener	1.12	+0.01
Sankey	1.12	+0.01
Stout	1.12	+0.01
Tate & Lyle	1.12	+0.01
Watson	1.12	+0.01
Wheat	1.12	+0.01
Yeast	1.12	+0.01

LEISURE & HOTELS

Company	Price	Change
Alcoa	10.12	+0.01
Boeing	1.12	+0.01
General Electric	1.12	+0.01
IBM	1.12	+0.01
Intel	1.12	+0.01
Microsoft	1.12	+0.01
Oracle	1.12	+0.01
SAP	1.12	+0.01
Siemens	1.12	+0.01
Unisys	1.12	+0.01
Veritas	1.12	+0.01
Wang	1.12	+0.01
WorldCom	1.12	+0.01
Xerox	1.12	+0.01
Yahoo	1.12	+0.01

MINING

Company	Price	Change
Alcoa	10.12	+0.01
Boeing	1.12	+0.01
General Electric	1.12	+0.01
IBM	1.12	+0.01
Intel	1.12	+0.01
Microsoft	1.12	+0.01
Oracle	1.12	+0.01
SAP	1.12	+0.01
Siemens	1.12	+0.01
Unisys	1.12	+0.01
Veritas	1.12	+0.01
Wang	1.12	+0.01
WorldCom	1.12	+0.01
Xerox	1.12	+0.01
Yahoo	1.12	+0.01

PROPERTY

Company	Price	Change
Alcoa	10.12	+0.01
Boeing	1.12	+0.01
General Electric	1.12	+0.01
IBM	1.12	+0.01
Intel	1.12	+0.01
Microsoft	1.12	+0.01
Oracle	1.12	+0.01
SAP	1.12	+0.01
Siemens	1.12	+0.01
Unisys	1.12	+0.01
Veritas	1.12	+0.01
Wang	1.12	+0.01
WorldCom	1.12	+0.01
Xerox	1.12	+0.01
Yahoo	1.12	+0.01

PHARMACEUTICALS

Company	Price	Change
Alcoa	10.12	+0.01
Boeing	1.12	+0.01
General Electric	1.12	+0.01
IBM	1.12	+0.01
Intel	1.12	+0.01
Microsoft	1.12	+0.01
Oracle	1.12	+0.01
SAP	1.12	+0.01
Siemens	1.12	+0.01
Unisys	1.12	+0.01
Veritas	1.12	+0.01
Wang	1.12	+0.01
WorldCom	1.12	+0.01
Xerox	1.12	+0.01
Yahoo	1.12	+0.01

PRINTING & PAPER

Company	Price	Change
Alcoa	10.12	+0.01
Boeing	1.12	+0.01
General Electric	1.12	+0.01
IBM	1.12	+0.01
Intel	1.12	+0.01
Microsoft	1.12	+0.01
Oracle	1.12	+0.01
SAP	1.12	+0.01
Siemens	1.12	+0.01
Unisys	1.12	+0.01
Veritas	1.12	+0.01
Wang	1.12	+0.01
WorldCom	1.12	+0.01
Xerox	1.12	+0.01
Yahoo	1.12	+0.01

SUPPORT SERVICES

Company	Price	Change
Alcoa	10.12	+0.01
Boeing	1.12	+0.01
General Electric	1.12	+0.01
IBM	1.12	+0.01
Intel	1.12	+0.01
Microsoft	1.12	+0.01
Oracle	1.12	+0.01
SAP	1.12	+0.01
Siemens	1.12	+0.01
Unisys	1.12	+0.01
Veritas	1.12	+0.01
Wang	1.12	+0.01
WorldCom	1.12	+0.01
Xerox	1.12	+0.01
Yahoo	1.12	+0.01

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Company	Price	Change
Alcoa	10.12	+0.01
Boeing	1.12	+0.01
General Electric	1.12	+0.01
IBM	1.12	+0.01
Intel	1.12	+0.01
Microsoft	1.12	+0.01
Oracle	1.12	+0.01
SAP	1.12	+0.01
Siemens	1.12	+0.01
Unisys	1.12	+0.01
Veritas	1.12	+0.01
Wang	1.12	+0.01
WorldCom	1.12	+0.01
Xerox	1.12	+0.01
Yahoo	1.12	+0.01

TEXTILES & APPAREL

Company	Price	Change
Alcoa	10.12	+0.01
Boeing	1.12	+0.01
General Electric	1.12	+0.01
IBM	1.12	+0.01
Intel	1.12	+0.01
Microsoft	1.12	+0.01
Oracle	1.12	+0.01
SAP	1.12	+0.01
Siemens	1.12	+0.01
Unisys	1.12	+0.01
Veritas	1.12	+0.01
Wang	1.12	+0.01
WorldCom	1.12	+0.01
Xerox	1.12	+0.01
Yahoo	1.12	+0.01

TRANSPORT

Company	Price	Change
Alcoa	10.12	+0.01
Boeing	1.12	+0.01
General Electric	1.12	+0.01
IBM	1.12	+0.01
Intel	1.12	+0.01
Microsoft	1.12	+0.01
Oracle	1.12	+0.01
SAP	1.12	+0.01
Siemens	1.12	+0.01
Unisys	1.12	+0.01
Veritas	1.12	+0.01
Wang	1.12	+0.01
WorldCom	1.12	+0.01
Xerox	1.12	+0.01
Yahoo	1.12	+0.01

WATER

Company	Price	Change
Alcoa	10.12	+0.01
Boeing	1.12	+0.01
General Electric	1.12	+0.01
IBM	1.12	+0.01
Intel	1.12	+0.01
Microsoft	1.12	+0.01
Oracle	1.12	+0.01
SAP	1.12	+0.01
Siemens	1.12	+0.01
Unisys	1.12	+0.01
Veritas	1.12	+0.01
Wang	1.12	+0.01
WorldCom	1.12	+0.01
Xerox	1.12	+0.01
Yahoo	1.12	+0.01

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

Company	Price	Change
Alcoa	10.12	+0.01
Boeing	1.12	+0.01
General Electric	1.12	+0.01
IBM	1.12	+0.01
Intel	1.12	+0.01
Microsoft	1.12	+0.01
Oracle	1.12	+0.01
SAP	1.12	+0.01
Siemens	1.12	+0.01
Unisys	1.12	+0.01
Veritas	1.12	+0.01
Wang	1.12	+0.01
WorldCom	1.12	+0.01
Xerox	1.12	+0.01
Yahoo	1.12	+0.01

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BRITISH FUNDS

Company	Price	Change
Alcoa	10.12	+0.01
Boeing	1.12	+0.01
General Electric	1.12	+0.01
IBM	1.12	+0.01
Intel	1.12	+0.01
Microsoft	1.12	+0.01
Oracle	1.12	+0.01
SAP	1.12	+0.01
Siemens	1.12	+0.01
Unisys	1.12	+0.01
Veritas	1.12	+0.01
Wang	1.12	+0.01
WorldCom	1.12	+0.01
Xerox	1.12	+0.01
Yahoo	1.12	+0.01

RETAILERS, FOOD

Company	Price	Change
Alcoa	10.12	+0.01
Boeing	1.12	+0.01
General Electric	1.12	+0.01
IBM	1.12	+0.01
Intel	1.12	+0.01
Microsoft	1.12	+0.01
Oracle	1.12	+0.01
SAP	1.12	+0.01
Siemens	1.12	+0.01
Unisys	1.12	+0.01
Veritas	1.12	+0.01
Wang	1.12	+0.01
WorldCom	1.12	+0.01
Xerox	1.12	+0.01
Yahoo	1.12	+0.01

RETAILERS, GENERAL

Company	Price	Change
Alcoa	10.12	+0.01
Boeing	1.12	+0.01
General Electric	1.12	+0.01
IBM	1.12	+0.01
Intel	1.12	+0.01
Microsoft	1.12	+0.01
Oracle	1.12	+0.01
SAP	1.12	+0.01
Siemens	1.12	+0.01
Unisys	1.12	+0.01
Veritas	1.12	+0.01
Wang	1.12	+0.01
WorldCom	1.12	+0.01
Xerox	1.12	+0.01
Yahoo	1.12	+0.01

UNLISTED

Company	Price	Change
Alcoa	10.12	+0.01
Boeing	1.12	+0.01
General Electric	1.12	+0.01
IBM	1.12	+0.01
Intel	1.12	+0.01
Microsoft	1.12	+0.01
Oracle	1.12	+0.01
SAP	1.12	+0.01
Siemens	1.12	+0.01
Unisys	1.12	+0.01
Veritas	1.12	+0.01
Wang	1.12	+0.01
WorldCom	1.12	+0.01
Xerox	1.12	+0.01
Yahoo	1.12	+0.01

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation

Comp. 9/27	100%	-	763	713	1037	100%	-	100%	100%
Comp. 9/27	100%	-	763	713	1037	100%	-	100%	100%
Comp. 9/27	100%	-	763	713	1037	100%	-	100%	100%
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Comp. 9/27	100%	-	763	713	1037	100%	-	100%	100%
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Comp. 9/27	100%	-	763	713	1037	100%	-	100%	100%
Comp. 9/27	100%	-	763	713	1037	100%	-</		

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NEW ON VIDEO

BASQUIAT

Fox Guild, 15, 1996

THE life of Jean-Michel Basquiat, the black graffiti artist of the 1980s, seems custom-built for Hollywood clichés about the romantic, self-destructive artist. But the director Julian Schnabel, a personal friend of the late artist, does not take the easy route. He lays out Basquiat's life like a row of bricks, and refuses to judge or explain. Stage actor Jeffrey Wright makes the painter appear charming, but bafflingly self-absorbed, while David Bowie does an amusing turn as Andy Warhol. Fascinating, although the film's potential is unfulfilled. Available to rent.

BOGUS BANDITS

Eureka, PG, 1997

BEHIND the unfamiliar title lies *Fra Diavolo*, Auber's comic opera of 1830, cleverly reworked by MGM as a burlesque vehicle for Laurel and Hardy. It's a curate's egg, but individual spoonfuls are delicious. Stan, in particular, has a ball: he gets drugged, drunk and makes charming games out of scratching his head and slapping his ears, knees and nose. Ringing baritone Dennis King takes care of most of the singing, while Thelma Todd is delightful as the plot's flirtatious young wife.

MICHAEL

Columbia TriStar, PG, 1997

JOHN TRAVOLTA tries out patience with this ragged and whimsical comedy about an unconventional angel endeavouring to bring joy and love to tabloid journalists in Iowa.



Jeffrey Wright (left) as Jean-Michel Basquiat and David Bowie (centre) as Andy Warhol in the almost excellent *Basquiat*

Director Nora Ephron drags her feet and does nothing to bind the film's random scenes. Other players struggling to please include Andie MacDowell, William Hurt and Sparky the mongrel dog. A hit

with cinemagoers, nonetheless, now available to rent.

TWIN TOWN

PolyGram 18, 1997

THE film that itches to do for Wales what *Shallow Grave*

and *Training Day* did for Scotland. But Kevin Allen's rough, rude and cruel comedy drama about crime and revenge in Swansea lacks the flair and technical finesse to offset its many crudities. Rhys

flans and Llyr Evans play local tearaways getting their own back after their dad falls off a ladder at work. Available to rent.

GEOFF BROWN

POP: Is Conner Reeves the star that British soul has been desperately seeking for so long?

Male solo stars are in rather short supply these days, particularly in Britain. You only have to look less than hideous, be able to hold a tune and look moody at a piano to find yourself billed as the new George Michael... which must be a source of some irritation for the man himself, seeing that he has not yet declared the situation vacant.

Who, though, has emerged in his wake to occupy that market niche between the boy band pin-ups and the Cliff Richards and Michael Balls of this world? Not Gary Barlow, thus far at least, nor Mark Morrison. For the time being, it remains the responsibility of an earlier contender, Seal, to carry the torch.

Not surprisingly, this is a situation which has been engaging the minds of record companies all over London, and the search has been on to find a new face, a new voice, to take the solo spotlight. Lewis Taylor, Jai, Kwesti... if you have not yet heard of these and other hopefuls, you soon will have.

However, a 26-year-old Anglo-Irishman from southeast London is emerging as the best bet. Conner Reeves has all the ingredients. His voice is outstanding - soulful, rich and fluid. His delivery - heavily influenced by his personal heroes, Stevie Wonder and Donny Hathaway - is sure. And, happily, he is already a skilled and successful R&B songwriter: Tina Turner opens her current album with one of his co-compositions, while Anita Baker and Bonnie Raitt have each optioned others for forthcoming albums.

"I went to see Tina at Wembley when she last played there," he says, shaking his head in wonder. "She's this living legend; I'm this little bloke from Peckham. Seeing all those people going mad for her singing my song was like watching some miracle unfold."

The second of four sons born to an electrician and a helper at an infant school, Reeves grew up in a household dominated by his parents' love of soul and R&B. But although he was supported in his wish to learn the piano, there was no enthusiasm for his further teenage ambition to become a singer.

"It was so frustrating, wanting something passionately, but not knowing how to progress towards it," he says without rancour. "I couldn't sing in the house, so I got into the habit of

Black-voiced blue-eyed boy



He's written songs for soul heavyweights such as Tina Turner. Now Conner Reeves has a Top 20 single of his own, called *My Father's Son*

going to the park. I'd get home from school, do my homework, eat dinner, then sneak out with my Walkman and the dog. Bad weather was best, because there would be no one else around and I could really let myself go, singing along to a tape by Donny Hathaway or George Benson."

By the age of 13, Reeves was writing songs, aiming to complete one per day - be it good, bad or indifferent - in

order to learn his craft. By the time he left school, with three A levels, he was composing in earnest, and worked on building sites and as a waiter to finance the pursuit of what was by now his consuming interest. At 21, he was rewarded with a publishing deal with Rondor Music, which brought him into contact with a variety of other jobbing writers. "You might find yourself being teamed with five differ-

ent strangers in a week, turning up at their house in the morning with the express aim of starting and finishing a song," he says. "And I never seemed to work with anyone my own age; they were all at least ten years older, sometimes significantly more. There was a lot for me to learn from those people."

Meanwhile, the strength of his own voice made it natural and inevitable that he should aim for a recording deal of his own. "But at the time, all anyone was looking for was boy bands. I was just 24 but already too old. They wanted 18-year-olds who they could tell to wear this, sit there, sing that... Eventually, I went to New York, tired of all the closed doors."

There he met the writer-producer Arthur Baker, who has enjoyed success with Madonna and many others. "He helped me a lot, and was confident I could get a deal as a kind of male Mariah Carey - someone white who sounds black. I thought, 'Wow! Is that what I am?' But before any of his leads came to anything, I got offered a deal back at home as the first artist on a new label. It meant less money upfront, but more artistic control, and that's what I was really after."

The resulting debut album, *Earthbound*, due for release in the autumn, suggests no budgetary controls. Producer Grant Mitchell has pulled in world-class players such as Pino Palladino, Manu Katche and Dominic Miller, the sort of session men more often found in the studio or touring the world with the likes of Sting.

More importantly, though, it presents Reeves as being gloriously accomplished both as a singer and songwriter: there are performances and material there to which his own heroes would be proud to put their own names.

The first taste of his talent has come with the release of a debut single, *My Father's Son*. A staple on commercial radio, it went into the charts at No 12. "Aaron Neville wanted to record it, Sir Cliff too," Reeves smiles. "But the time had come to hang on to my best songs; the ones that really give me goosebumps."

ALAN JACKSON

My Father's Son is released by Wildstar Records

A bracing of Sheilas

Trudy Kerr
Anita Wardell
Pizza on the Park

THIS has all the makings of an Australian version of *The Commitments*: two singing singers meet briefly at the Sydney Opera House, only to be reunited years later in London, where they share a house, before embarking on a joint tour under the self-mocking banner of the "Jazz Sheilas". Has Alan Parker commissioned a script yet?

More than happy to send themselves up, Trudy Kerr and Anita Wardell even indulged in a warm-up duet on *Walking Maillards* - taken as a smouldering ballad - at the beginning of the evening. But look beyond the raucous, self-deprecating banter, and you discover a provocative contrast in vocal styles. Wardell is the offbeat boomer; Kerr, who knows her way around the Cole Porter and Jerome Kern songbooks, gives the material a contemporary edge with

finger-snapping R&B. Her debut album, aptly entitled *Sweet Surprise*, is full of unexpected detours. I cannot think of any other jazz singer who could make as persuasive a case for the soft-focus romanticism of Kenny Loggins. She also has an eye for songs deserving of a wider audience, such as Duncan Lamont's bitter-sweet ballad, *I Told You So*.

Kerr's constant darning across idioms from jazz to gospel and blues, can occasionally be disconcerting, as if she were sometimes more interested in parading influences than baring her soul. But she has developed an immensely promising partnership with Phil Peskent, a resourceful pianist whose elegant trio arrangements allow her ample room for manoeuvre.

Wardell is a more agile performer than Kerr, but her voice perhaps lacks the light and shade to sustain a lengthy series of duets. More restrained than usual, she broke loose on *Twisted*, Annie Ross's famous tale of dysfunction set to music by the saxophonist Wardell Gray.

Wardell joined Kerr at the close to harmonise on a dashing encore of *Sometimes I'm Happy*. At which point the boss player Andy Hamilton managed to insinuate the theme from *The Wombles*. It was, on the whole, that kind of evening.

CLIVE DAVIS

Shot in the backing

Percy Sledge
Jazz Cafe, SW6

THESE days, there are not that many opportunities to hear a voice such as that possessed by Percy Sledge. The Jazz Cafe in Camden Town, however, is one of the places that the original Atlantic soul-singer keeps coming back to: this was the first show in a six-night residency.

Sledge's band - a classic Star line-up of Hammond organ, guitar, bass, drums, trombone and trumpet - took the stage first, then he descended the staircase, smiling that gap-toothed smile and telling everyone how good it was to be back in England. He got straight into a couple of the songs for which he is best known, *Cover Me* and *Take Time to Know Her*, but it was not until he sang the Temptations' *My Girl* that he really got into his stride, raising his arms aloft, trembling his knees and directing most of the words at his wife, who was sitting in the balcony.

However, it was at this point that the rhythm section began to look less like

classic Stax players than musicians Sledge had met over the Bank Holiday weekend. The first flaws began to show during *Just Out of Reach* (Of *My Two Empty Arms*), a single from 1967 and one of his best-known songs. "We might come back to that later," said Sledge, pointedly but still politely.

But when the band showed that they were equally unfamiliar with the aching *Out of Left Field*, Sledge could not contain his frustration and made the band stop and start it again. It was followed by an awful attempt at *Dark End of the Street*, which proved too much for the singer. He simply stopped it after a couple of lines and did not even try to do it again.

Sledge began to apologise, but an Irish voice from the bar cut him short: "Will you just give us a song, man?" This seemed to be the right thing to say, because Sledge replied with a stunning version of *Dock of the Bay* which showed that he possesses one of the few voices that is capable of singing that song the way Otis Redding would have done it.

He followed with *Whiter Shade of Pale* and closed with his big soul standard, *When a Man Loves a Woman*. There really was no need for Sledge to apologise for his band; most people had come here purely to hear the sound of his great voice.

ANN SCANLON

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hich place TRAGÉDIE



Riding with the Valkyries

Few conductors have risen as fast as Antonio Pappano. Tonight he tackles Wagner. John Higgins met him

Wagnerites at tonight's Usher Hall performance of *Die Walküre* Act III should be getting a taste of *Rings* to come. Although Bryn Terfel, the great British bass-baritone, has withdrawn from singing his first Wotan (to be replaced by the indefatigable John Tomlinson), Jane Eaglen, the Brünnhilde, is booked for the new *Rings* at the Metropolitan in New York in 2000. And the conductor, Antonio Pappano is already beginning to prepare his own cycle, due to open round about the same time at the Monnaie in Brussels, where he is music director.

Pappano is a stocky and ebullient man in his mid-thirties. London-born but brought up mainly in America. He is known in Britain largely for a trio of outstanding opera recordings for EMI. They began with *Bohème* starring Roberto Alagna, and went on with the star-filled *Don Carlos* from the Châtelet in Paris. Last spring came Pappano's *La rondine*, with Alagna and Angela Gheorghiu, which is very likely to feature in the *Records of the Year* lists.

All three have the Pappano trademark of extreme theatricality. Even in the impersonal atmosphere of the studio he believes in having a stage set in mind. "It is essential to bring a sense of the theatre into every opera recording. You do it by starting, into the singers' eyes as though you were standing by their side in costume. You think about how it would look in the opera house. You can't conduct *Bohème* by opening the score and studying it. It's got to have its heart right there in the theatre."

Earlier this month Pappano was in Hampstead recording the next

stage in his Puccini cycle for EMI, the *Triltsch*. He is well aware that the same company has a classic set, with Gobbi and de los Angeles, in the archives. But then the same objection could have been raised about *Bohème*: the Beecham recording with Björling and de los Angeles may well still be first choice for many. Pappano is no believer in living in the past and has made a point of using the *Triltsch* to introduce several young and, so far, little known singers.

Familiar names are there: José van Dam, the uncrowned king of Brussels and the Monnaie, has the title role in *Gianni Schicchi*, Alagna and Gheorghiu are the lovers in the same opera and supply a couple of off-stage voices in *Il barbero*. But inter-

mingled with them are a young Italian baritone, Carlo Guelfi, of whom there are very high hopes, as the bargee Michele in *Tabarro*; and Cristina Gallardo-Domaz as Suor Angelica. They have certainly not been sent along by the international division of central casting. Pappano's next step along the Puccini line will be the early *Le villi* in a year's time. "Pure delight," he says. "Neapolitan songs from beginning to end." Then possibly comes *Edgar*. "One great baritone aria, but the rest of it doesn't really sound like Puccini at all. I'm still trying to talk myself into that one."

Both Pappano's London opera appearances were also in Puccini. There was a well-received *Butterfly* at the Coliseum, but he would prefer to forget the Covent Garden *Bohème*. "An absolute nightmare. Jerry Hadley, the tenor, fell sick after the first night and I must have had half a dozen different Rodolfos in as many performances. No, we won't talk about that." In any case



Antonio Pappano, who conducts Act III of *Die Walküre* at the festival tonight: "There is no point in being an itinerant conductor subject to the whims of others"

he is fearful of being dubbed a Puccini conductor.

"When they hear the name 'Pappano' the immediate reaction is 'Hm, that sounds right for Puccini'. One reason why I have extended my contract at the Monnaie to 2003 is so that I can have total command over my repertoire. I learnt long ago that there was no point in being an itinerant conductor subject to the whims of others. Control your own life. Conduct as many masterpieces as possible and there is a chance that their quality will rub off on you."

In fact Pappano's basic operatic grounding came in Bayreuth under Barenboim. "My father was a singing teacher and I spent my youth accompanying his pupils on the piano. I played the organ in the local church and piano at supper clubs where we lived on the East Coast. Eventually I got to the New York City Opera as a répétiteur and in 1980 accompanied Deborah Polaski when she auditioned for

Barenboim. He ended by engaging both of us for Bayreuth and there I stayed for six seasons. I had little formal academic training and most of my music was learnt on the ground as a working pianist. I suppose that has given me an understanding of singers and their problems. I certainly have admiration for the courage that it takes to go out there and perform."

Pappano's loyalty to Barenboim paid off. In 1993 he was called in at the last minute to replace an ailing Christoph von Dohnányi for a new production of *Siegfried* at the Vienna State Opera. The dress rehearsal was "hairy" but the opening night ended in triumph. It was Barenboim, too, who recommended Pappano to EMI when Georges Prétre pulled out of *Bohème*. So started the Puccini cycle. Pappano returns to Bayreuth in 1999, this time not as a répétiteur but as conductor of *Lohengrin*.

Die Walküre is at the Usher Hall 8.15-10.30pm tonight at 7.30pm

Bernard Haitink and the European Union Youth Orchestra drew a good audience to the Usher Hall for their early evening programme of Mahler and Shostakovich. If the *Rücken Lieder* suffered a little — and the uncertain intonation and insufficient colouring of the mezzo soloist Catherine Wyn-Rogers certainly did not flatter them — it was in a good cause. The Mahler sound echoing in the memory after the interval mingled with the Mahler echoes in Shostakovich to bring out a rarely appreciated aspect of the latter's Fourth Symphony.

Haitink did nothing to romanticise the Shostakovich score. Far from it: he secured consistently hard-edged textures from his young musicians, who played for him with extraordinary firmness and confidence and scarcely failing clarity. But, alongside the familiar expressions of disillusion, irony and harsh reality, there was on this occasion an element of loneliness

Youth makes its mark

EUYO/Haitink
Usher Hall

that added a whole new dimension. The Edinburgh Festival's celebrations of its illustrious past have been more than an indulgence in nostalgia. In the Usher Hall later that night, indeed, it seemed to be punishing itself for having promoted three events which many long-term regulars would probably rather forget — the first performances of Luigi Nono's *Sul Ponte di Hirashima* in 1962 and his

Inferenza Suite in 1969 and, though the score was already 16 years old by then, Sir Georg Solti's 1971 endorsement of Elliott Carter's masterly *Variations for Orchestra* with the Chicago Symphony.

Certainly, there was no great demand from the present-day audience to hear Emilio Pomarico and the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra reintroduce those works. But in the past they were not segregated in late-night modern-music events, but performed alongside music by Mozart and Brahms in mid-evening concerts. One political protest by Nono is enough for one concert, and Carter's *Variations* is so complicated that it needs to be heard when the ear is fresh.

A more realistic programme and a fiftieth-birthday commission might have been both a better investment and a more rewarding exercise for the accomplished BBC SSO/Pomarico partnership.

GERALD LARNER

Bubbles across the pond

A NEAT bit of programming in Tuesday night's Prom, given by the BBC Symphony Orchestra — under Oliver Knussen, offered a premiere each from major British and American composers (Mark-Anthony Turnage, and Elliott Carter), together with folk-song settings from both sides of the Atlantic that usefully set the cultural scene.

Though rapidly approaching 90, Carter has lost none of his legendary physical or creative energy. With *Allegro scorrevole* receiving its European premiere, he completes the triptych *Symphonia*, of which the first part was the *Partita*, and the second the *Adagio Tenorale* (heard two Proms seasons ago). In fact, the notion of longevity stands

BBC PROMS BBCSO/Mark-Anthony Turnage Albert Hall Radio 3

behind the new work, in as much as it was inspired by the metaphysical image of a floating bubble representing the fragility of life.

The bubble is depicted by gossamer textures and a buoyant, bouncing line which, though angular in the extreme, achieves an impressive continuity as it passes from one instrument to another. That angularity severely tested the ensemble of the BBC strings in particular, but one had to admire the sang-froid with which Knussen and the

players steered their way through some enormously complex textures.

Carter's more exuberant but scarcely less intricate *Holiday Overture* of 1944 started the programme, and it ended with an animated performance of the cowboy ballet *Billy the Kid* by Aaron Copland. The strains of the Wild West were not far from a group of folksong settings by Copland, Ruth Crawford and her teacher-husband Charles Seeger, and it was fascinating to hear those faraway yet familiar echoes in close juxtaposition with the folk elements, treated with characteristic lack of sentimentality, in Britten's *Suite on English Folk Tunes*. *A Time There Was...*

The music of Turnage, the

contemporary British composer represented, springs not out of the folk or pastoral tradition, but out of something more aggressively urban. *Dispersing the Fears* (London premiere) depicts a spiritual journey from darkness to light, and its dissonant tensions are ultimately resolved in a coda of great beauty. The work is scored unusually for two trumpets and orchestra, and the spirited dialogue for the soloists is taken up by other pairs of instruments. The non-competitive partnership of Håkan Hardenberger and John Wallace, for whom it was written, could scarcely have been bettered.

BARRY MILLINGTON

NEW CLASSICAL CDs: Schubert and Schumann revisited; Gallic tenors

Barry Millington

■ SCHUBERT
Symphony No 10 to D
Scottish CO/Mackerras
Hyperion CDA67000 ***
£14.49

COMPLETIONS of great composers' symphonies need to be treated with caution, but there are good reasons for welcoming Brian Newbould's realisation of Schubert's Tenth (D936A). It is true that we do not know quite how Schubert would have elaborated the material in the fragmentary piano sketches; on the other hand, a reconstruction of this kind gives us a chance to appreciate the directions in which the composer was moving at the time of his death.

The first movement, for example, features a remarkable — indeed unparalleled — transformation of the second subject in a slower tempo (Newbould aptly scores it for three solemn trombones and bassoon), while the Scherzo (which may or may not have doubled as a finale) both ambitiously expands the form and bears the fruit of Schubert's late studies in counterpoint.

This disc, which also contains Newbould's realisations of other symphonic

fragments, is fascinating as a practical demonstration of musicological detective work. The performances, too, are exemplary, with Charles Mackerras drawing brightly, rhythmically but but lyrical playing from the Scottish Chamber Orchestra.

HEICHTAL Hilary Finch

■ SCHUMANN
Heine Lieder
Hampson/Sawallisch
EMI 5 55598 2 ***
£15.99

ONE would expect no ordinary *Dichterliebe* from Thomas Hampson; but this is something else. When the American baritone was preparing to perform Schumann's great song-cycle, he went in search of the manuscript and found, by chance, the original version: 20 songs instead of 16, with numerous textual differences. This would premiere recording of the "other" *Dichterliebe* offers thrilling insight into Schumann's changing responses to Heine's poetry.

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

The full detective file is on show in the accompanying booklet but, in brief, the four extra songs are those often thought to be late works of Schumann: *Dein Angesicht*, *Lehn' deine Wangen*, *Es leuchtet meine Liebe*, and *Mein Wagen rollt langsam*. To hear this last spooky and unsettling song precede the desolate *Ich hab' im Traum geweinet* is to probe deeper and more disturbingly into the shadowy dreamworld of both Heine's and Schumann's vision.

In the familiar *Dichterliebe* songs, the less familiar verbal underlay and articulation frequently bring the settings nearer to speech than song: they sigh less, but bite and bruise more. Hampson and his pianist Wolfgang Sawallisch reflect this in searingly committed performances, complemented by Schumann's early Op 24 *Liederkreis* and Heine's fiercely ironic *Der arme Peter* triptych.

OPERA John Higgins

■ LES 40 TENORS
EMI Classics 7243 5 72007 2 (two CDs), *** £19.99

A USEFUL compilation, presumably aimed at operatic tyros, surveying the world's

tenors from C (Caruso) to A (Alagna) and their repertoire. It comes from EMI's French arm and displays a distinct Gallic bias. The first 13 items are all from works written in that language, even though some were by Italian composers. One or two of France's own tenors come over as underrated: Alain Vanzo is honey-sweet in Nardis's aria from *The Pearl Fishers*. Others are scarcely worth inclusion — Raoul Jobin gobbles his way through the *Legend of Kleinsach* from Hoffmann. Americans such as Richard Leach and John Aler have adapted themselves remarkably well to the French style, but Rockwell Blake's contribution scarcely deserves a place in the Top 40.

The German section, also 13 items, is especially well selected, with stylisms like Simoneau and Wunderlich rubbing shoulders with the robust tones of Melchior and Schock. A place is found, quite rightly, for the almost forgotten Josef Schmidt.

Patriots will note that Taubert, who ended up with UK nationality, is the nearest approach to a British tenor. But then no Russians are included either.

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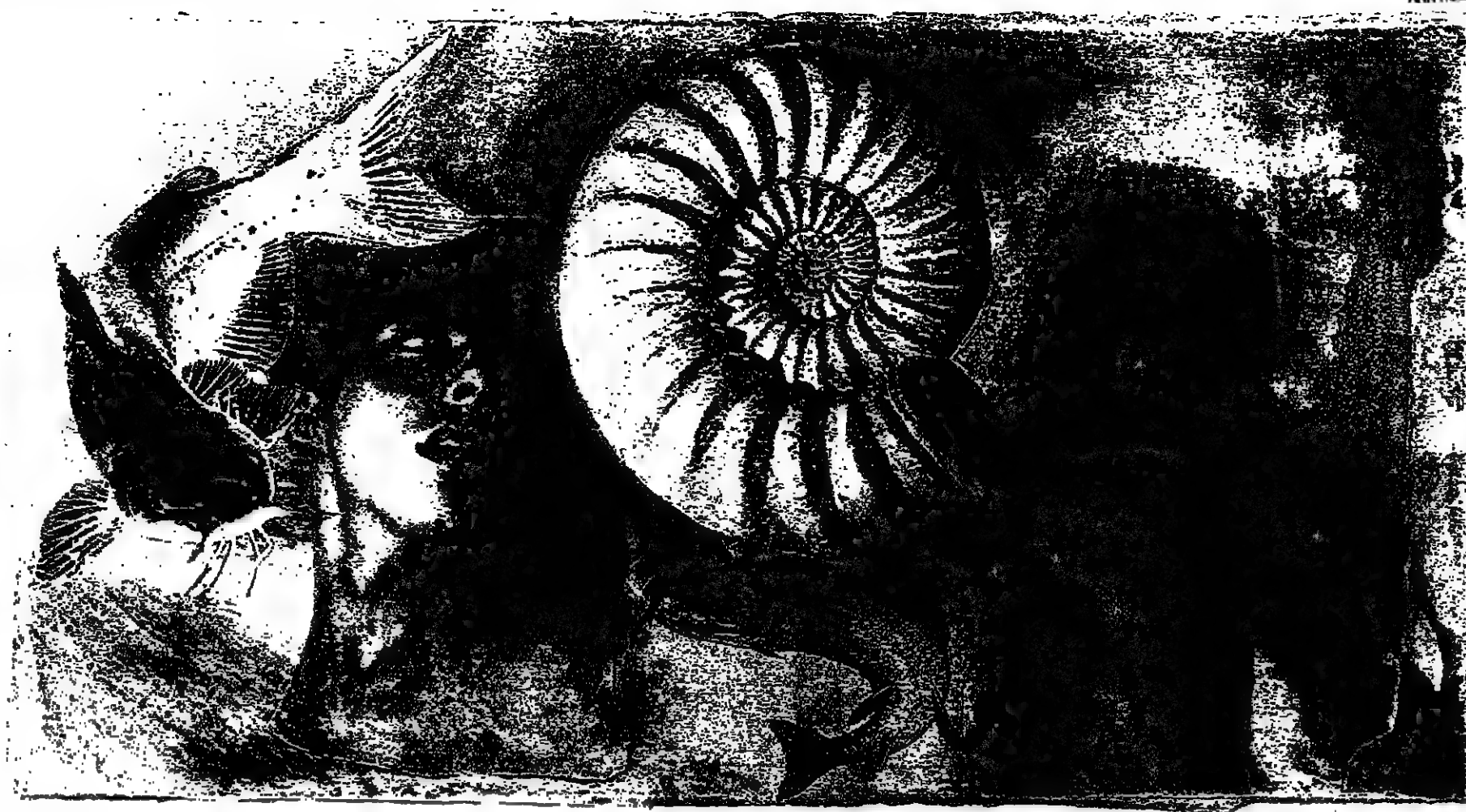
Light work of stormy weather

Erica Wagner
sails through a
captivating tale
of spies at sea

So what is it with authors called Paul? Woe betide you, hapless writer, should your parents chance to have given you this name: for you will be almost certain — or so it is beginning to seem — to create a character who shares your appellation. P. Auster springs to mind as one particularly fond of this trick: P. Theroux, in fictionalising his life to the intense distress of his nearest and dearest, has followed suit. Now P. Watkins joins the self-referential ranks when the spying, seafaring Paul-protagonist of *The Story of My Disappearance* abandons his given surname, Wedekind, along with his German citizenship, and chooses one that Rhode Island tongues find less twisting: Watkins. Wouldn't you know.

But then it is hardly surprising that Wedekind/Watkins should be struggling with his identity. He is a Stasi man, sent to America by his East German masters just before the fall of the Berlin Wall. He is a mechanic, but his cover makes him into a fisherman: he and the beautiful, mysterious Suleika make their living trawling off the coast of New England — and just occasionally picking up passengers from a Russian sub or two. His American odyssey is possible because according to the official record Wedekind died in Afghanistan. He can be anyone he wants. He is no one.

That he is not Paul Watkins, novelist, at least becomes clear midway through the novel when he finds himself reading "a book about a boy who used to work the Newport docks". That would be *Calm at Sunset*, *Calm at Dawn*, Watkins' second novel and first venture into the treacherous waters of America's eastern shoals. But don't let all this cleverness fool you into thinking that you've got some tedious Post-Modern exploration of the nature of



THE STORY OF MY
DISAPPEARANCE
By Paul Watkins
Faber, £14.99
ISBN 0 571 19244 0

identity on your hands. What you have is a rattling good yarn elegantly told — with a fine examination of the nature of identity, and the meaning of loyalty, thrown in. The novel begins, as his last novel, *Archangel*, did, with a shattering image of violence: Paul and Suleika, minding their own business in the local bar, see a man drive an iron spike through another man's skull. Watkins knows, and has clearly proved in his earlier books, the first rule of novel-writing: get the reader's attention. It works. Surely you would not be quite human if you did not wonder who these men were, why one killed the other, why Paul feels his blood run cold when he catches sight of the killer's face.

For much of the rest of the novel Watkins pushes us back into the past, forging the links between Wedekind's life as he lives it now and the history that infects it — particularly his time in Afghanistan and his friendship with a college pal turned slippery black-marketeer, Ingo Budde. To reveal much more would be to reveal too much: part of the pleasure of this novel, and it is a great pleasure, is its story — with its sombre black and silver cover, all Faber & Faber understatement, you might not mark out this object as a thriller, but that it certainly is. Watkins, however, never sacrifices his writing to serve his plot: the language is stretched drum-tight, capturing with efficient precision

the fish and diesel smell of a New England seaport, or the altogether grimmer and more terrifying odour of a prison camp, of men in the presence of pain and death. The beauty is in the detail: he seems to be able to observe every passing moment with the clarity of a strobe light: the oyster shells scattered on the floor in the wake of the stabbing, the bar-owner standing

frozen, a roll of receipt-tape unspooling from his hands. Caught in a storm Paul sees "the lightning flash so furiously that it actually turned the air over the island green, like bright sunlight through a summer leaf". He photographs the moment, again and again and again. That such detail is unable to pin down an exact image of Paul or Suleika or Ingo is not a weakness in the writing but a strength: these are characters who become themselves only as they seem to vanish.

It is tempting to search for weakness in Paul Watkins' work. Still in his early thirties, his six novels have ranged across time and distance, from wartime Germany to the Black-and-Tan feuds of Ireland

in the Twenties, from the woods of Maine to the skies of Africa — and now he has returned to the New England coast. He is no longer precocious but formidably skilled, and it is only occasionally that his writing shows the joins. In some of the earlier parts of this novel the echo of the research that clearly went into it sounds rather loudly, and I was not quite convinced by Wedekind's smooth transition to American citizenship.

But these are minor points. I devoured this book not once but twice, and enjoyed it just as much when I knew what was coming. P. Watkins can call his characters whatever he pleases. He tells a fine tale indeed.

Home on the jolly range

Good novels about history, as opposed to historical novels, can sometimes feel as contemporaneous as fictions set in the present time when they go some way to explaining how we live now. *The Englishman's Boy* works at this level. Its parallel narratives — one a tale of the American Frontier and the other of Hollywood — demonstrate how the former is reimagined by the latter.

The eponymous Englishman's boy arrives in the West at the end of the last century. A teenager, he embarks on a quest with a posse of wolf hunters, tracking some Assiniboine Indians who have stolen their horses. From Missouri they cross the border into Canada and a law-free zone that attracts the violent to its epicentre, where their actions will not be held to account. The leader of the posse is Tom Hardwick, a man devoid of sentiment, an all-exterior life-form. "He scratched a match with a thumbnail and his face sprang out at them, bright in the dim surround, like a golden countenance in an old painting." The Englishman's boy's education is in setting his basic humanity against Hardwick's ruthlessness, a rites of passage in the manner

Russell Celyn Jones

THE ENGLISHMAN'S BOY
By Guy Vanderhaeghe
Doubleday, £15.99
ISBN 0 358 40494 4

of Cormac McCarthy's *All the Pretty Horses*.

The writing throughout the historical chapters is wonderfully exact, swollen with striking images. A pair of "Christian shoes" on an Indian girl is described as "biting her feet like a dog". And Vanderhaeghe's use of western nomenclature: "mumblety-peg", "crib-girls", "croppies", "Henry's sharps" adds authenticity. A wide range of characters are delineated by an equally wide range of speech patterns.

My only quibble with this hugely entertaining novel is the over-use of research material in the Hollywood chapters, as if Vanderhaeghe, like scriptwriter Harry Vincent, has been paid by the word. This dual narrative is set in the 1920s in the closing days of the silent film. Harry is employed by Damon Ira Chance, a fascist and racist studio boss, to track down Shorty McAdoo — the Englishman's boy grown old and emblematic of the Frontier spirit. Chance wants to make a Great American movie about Shorty, which like D.W. Griffith's *The Birth of a Nation* will reflect America itself. If the American destiny is one of forward momentum, then "What the American spirit required was an art form of forward momentum" — the motion picture.

Shorty is not only the genuine article, but one of the last surviving caretakers of oral history. Harry's job is to tease that history out of him. Shorty is no fool and suspicious of Harry's motives. But even he has a price and sells his story for \$4,000. As readers, we get access to the uncensored 19th-century tale, but Chance wants to peddle the Zane Gray version of the West, a story of Aryan supremacy, and manages to make a hero of the violent and evil Tom Hardwick. The book thus culminates in a double disaster, one prefiguring the other.

Harry Vincent is the antithesis to Tom Hardwick: sentimental (he maintains his sick mother in an expensive sanatorium: while the cowboys don't seem to have mothers) and naive. But what makes Harry so naive is unclear. Chance's machiavellian political ambition is obvious to everyone but him. However, in this world at least, people get their just deserts. Chance falls on his own sword. The Assiniboine Indians maintain their euphoria. And through them we glimpse a superior civilisation — to the one Hardwick belonged to and Shorty survived with integrity, and which Chance tries to make-over with lies.

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In the beginning was the atom

Two books take Martin Rees on a journey through time and space

The most incomprehensible thing about the Universe is that it is comprehensible. Einstein's well-known aphorism expressed his amazement that the laws of physics, which our minds are somehow attuned to understand, apply not just here on Earth, but in the remotest galaxy. Just as biologists can delineate how human beings emerged on Earth, so astronomers are setting our solar system in a cosmic context, tracing the causal chain right back to the initial instants of an explosive "big bang".

Cosmic discoveries attract media attention — sometimes, indeed, excessive hype. Timothy Ferris, formerly a professor of journalism, is deservedly acclaimed in the United States for his eloquent and discerning writings on science. His latest book, *The Whole Shebang*, offers a lively romp through all the news-worthy themes — black holes, time travel, supernovae, quarks, life in space, and so forth. His status as a commentator, rather than an engaged participant in the research enterprise, leads to a balanced perspective. He has a sure touch in discriminating strongly based claims from those on the speculative fringe: he focuses on the key ideas, avoiding technical details that none but specialists need bother about.

Ferris does not shy away from the spooky paradoxes of quantum theory and the arcane concepts of

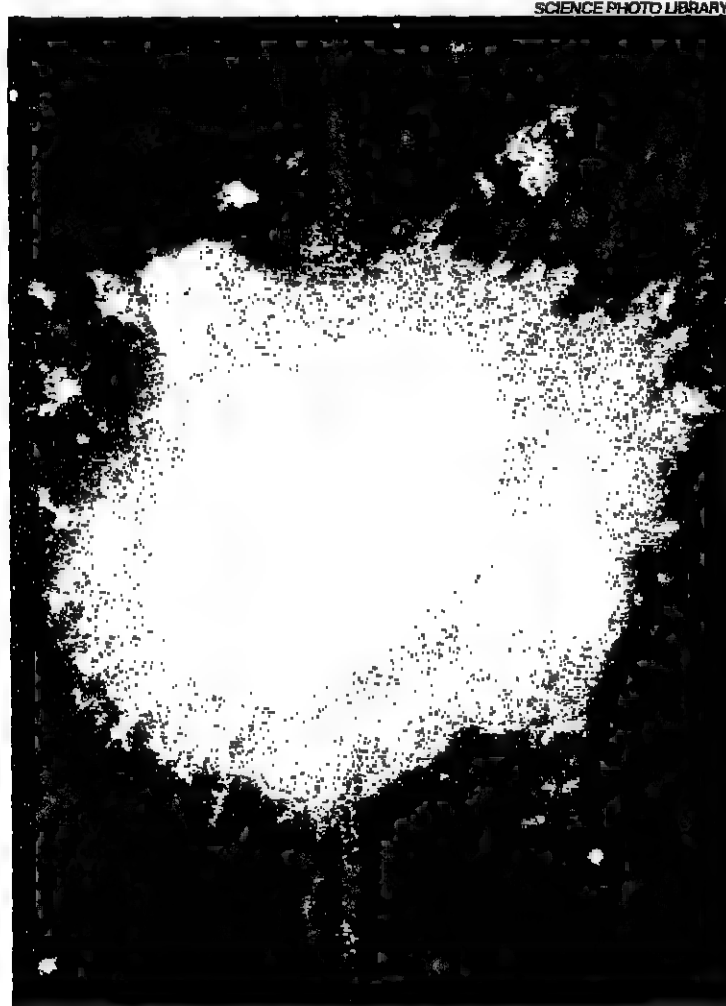
"superstrings" in ten-dimensional space — indeed, his expositions of these challenging topics are outstanding. He enlivens the story with astutely observed vignettes of the leading scientists, and commentary on the sociological dimension of research.

Cosmologists used to be free to weave theories almost unencumbered by any facts. But technical advances in observation and experiment have transformed cosmology from speculation to serious science. Telescopes can detect objects so remote that their light took ten billion years journeying towards us, giving "snapshots" of galaxies that were newly forming from the debris of the "big bang". Other delicate measurements reveal relics of still earlier eras when everything was squeezed hotter and denser than the centre of a star. Inferences about the first few seconds after the "big bang" are as firmly based as the deductions of geologists and fossil-hunters

about the early history of our Earth. But, as Ferris explains, the most basic questions still baffle us. Why is our Universe expanding? How, from its dense beginnings, did it heave itself up to such a vast size?

The only compelling answer to this question comes from Alan Guth, a young American theorist, who offers his personal perspective on cosmology in *The Inflationary Universe*. Guth did not start out as a cosmologist: his prime interest was in how subatomic particles might behave if the temperatures were colossal. But he realised that the dense early Universe was perhaps the hottest place of all. Guth recalls his "eureka moment". One day in 1979 he went to his office, inscribed in his notebook in very large letters, the words "spectacular realisation", and recorded his remarkable insight: an entire universe could "inflate" from something far smaller than an atom.

THE WHOLE SHEBANG
By Timothy Ferris
Wiedenfeld & Nicolson, £20
ISBN 0 397 81518 0
THE INFLATIONARY UNIVERSE
By Alan Guth
Cape, £18.99
ISBN 0 224 04468 6



The Eta Carinae nebula as seen by the Hubble space telescope

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Gone on an awfully big adventure

Scott Bradfield

DESIGN FOR DYING
By Timothy Leary
With R. U. Sirius
Thorsons, £15.99
ISBN 0 7225 3545 7

Timothy Leary was a sort of New Age Thoreau. He hated authority in any form. He regularly exhorted students to think for themselves (to "tune in, turn on and drop out"). And he believed human beings had an obligation to transcend the meagre dimensions of their minds and merge with the Cosmic Oneness, whether by dropping LSD, migrating across the Universe in gigantic spacecraft or performing cyber-sex on the Internet. Quite unlike Thoreau, however, Leary wasn't the sort of man who could rest content with a tiny cabin in the woods and a few bags of beans. Instead, he lived his life and died his death in front of as many spectators as possible.

Leary greeted the diagnosis of his terminal prostate cancer as a means of "total liberation", and immediately established the "mother of all parties" in his living room — both real and virtual.

Originally he planned to escape to the future by having a high-profile cryonics company chop off his head and

freeze it in a vault. Then, when he decided he didn't want to "wake up in 50 years surrounded by humourless men with clipboards", he decided to try out one of his more conservative alternatives instead. This meant having himself cremated and his ashes launched into outer space.

According to Leary, organising your "designer death" does not mean buying your casket from John Lewis. It means opting out of the "death factories" known as hospitals, and making your own choices about how, when and where you want to go. You can download your personality onto your computer's hard-drive or prepare for death the same way you would for a psychedelic journey. "I can't wait for the moment when I'll have the



Ready for the final trip: Timothy Leary, still cheerful in his last days

experience of being in my brain without my body being around," writes Leary. It's hard to believe that he never enjoyed this particular experience before.

In his writings, at least, Leary was an eternal optimist, which is why even from the grave his voice continues to sound refreshing and upbeat. In this dense and final reflection, he discourses freely on the various ways our minds will be liberated from our

bodies in the imminent age of "postbiology", extolls the trans-galactic virtues of DNA, and enthuses on the bizarre possibilities of nanotechnology — the science of creating sub-microscopic, self-replicating robots which will redesign the infrastructure of our bodies until we all resemble the insides of a PC.

As the notorious hacker R. U. Sirius suggests in his moving Afterword, Leary was a man who embraced large

impersonal forces, perhaps because he never felt comfortable with who he was in the first place. He alienated most of the people who loved him, losing both a wife and a daughter to suicide, and spent his entire life looking for different ways to get high on everything from cigarettes to psilocybin. At the same time, though, it's hard not to admire someone who lived 76 years and was never at a loss for big ideas.

Two thousand years of faith and power

**Piers Paul
Read on the
Vatican's
survival**

It is often said, even by Roman Catholics, that the Church will survive into the third millennium only if the present Pope changes its teaching to accommodate the manners and morals of the modern world. The Pope to this is to be found in two new histories of the papacy which show how time and again he has triumphed over its adversaries, however untenable its position seemed at the time.

The longevity of the papacy as a continuous institution is a unique phenomenon in the history of the human race. "The papacy," writes Eamon Duffy, "is the oldest as well as, arguably, the most influential of all human institutions." "The historian," writes Paul Johnson, "bows his head in humble respect at its antiquity, continuity and durability, and observes in awe its endless splendours and shadows as they flicker across the centuries. It has now survived two entire millennia with its essential functions intact."

Its origins are undocumented but the tradition accepted from the earliest times is that St Peter, the leader of Christ's disciples and the "rock" upon whom he built his

SAINTS AND SINNERS
A History of the Popes
By Eamon Duffy
Yale, £16.95
ISBN 0 300 07332 1

THE PAPACY
Edited by Michael Walsh
With an Introduction
by Paul Johnson
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £25
ISBN 0 297 83599 9

Church, was crucified in Rome together with St Paul, and was buried beneath what is now the high altar of St Peter's. The exact status of his immediate successors in the early Church is unknown, but the continuity between Apostle and Pope was established as early as AD 180, and "by the beginning of the third century the Church in Rome was an acknowledged point of reference for Christians throughout the Mediterranean world."

The role of the papacy as the supreme court of the Church, and so the source of the Church's unity, is perhaps the only consistent element in its long history. The Pope's zeal for orthodoxy, but apparent almost from the start, but its relations with the secular world have varied greatly according to political circumstance. The conversion of Constantine eventually made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire, but it began a rivalry between Popes and Christian emperors and kings that lasted at least until the First World War. Paradoxically, papal power over national churches has often been greater when the governments were indifferent or even antagonistic towards the Church. The Pope's control over the appointment of bishops is today greater than ever before.

To tackle the history of 261 Popes over a period of 2,000 years is a daunting task. Ludwig von Pastor's 37-volume *History of the Popes* covers only 450 years. Of the two



Lifted by hope: watching a holy mass held by Pope John Paul II in Krakow in June of this year

authors, only Eamon Duffy attempts it. *The Papacy* has Paul Johnson's name on the dust jacket but he contributes only an introduction and an afterword. The bulk of the book is made up of essays by different scholars edited by Michael Walsh, a biographer of Pope John Paul II and the librarian of Heythrop College. This cross-fertilisation of Johnson, a well-known traditionalist with a liberal Catholic such as Walsh, no doubt ensures an even-handed treatment of the subject. The only disadvantage is in the change in tone from Johnson's sparkling prose in his introduction to the drier tone of the academics whose essays follow. Each is an expert in his field, and there is no doubt that we have in it the results of the most up-to-date thinking and most recent research, but it denies the book a broad sweep or a consistent style.

Eamon Duffy's book, by contrast, has a grand perspective that suits its subject. This is not what one might have expected from the meticulous scholar who wrote *The*

Stripping of the Altars, Duffy's acclaimed study of the Reformation in England.

Rarely can a professional historian have moved so successfully from the particular to the general as Duffy does in this history of the Popes. The reader is caught up in the enthusiasm he clearly feels for his subject. He enlivens the long march through church history with anecdotes that bring the different pontiffs to life and, though the genesis of the book was a television series, there is never a sense that this is anything less than a serious and authoritative history. *Saints and Sinners* is a remarkable achievement.

How is it that the papacy has survived? Although Duffy, like Johnson and Walsh, is a Catholic, he carefully avoids any claim to a divine guarantee. Johnson ascribes the link with Rome, the universality of the institution and the variety of the individuals. Perhaps more significant was the belief of Catholics

— now numbering almost a billion — that the successor to St Peter has inherited his powers to bind and loose, and the keys to the kingdom of Heaven. Many of the Popes abused this office, but even from a purely temporal perspective, it can be said that the good of the good Popes such as Gregory the Great outweighs the bad of the bad ones; and even the bad turn out not to have been as bad as we imagined. "Many aspects of their behaviour and policies that we find reprehensible, or at least baffling," writes John O'Malley in his contribution to *The Papacy*, "were due not to moral degeneracy but to fiscal and ecclesiastical systems that almost required them to act as they did."

Both histories agree the inequities of the infamous Alexander VI were probably exaggerated by his enemies. They also feel that much can be forgiven Renaissance Popes such as Sixtus IV and Julius II for their lavish patronage of the arts. The fine colour illustrations in both books help to make their point.

Marianne Wiggins admires a Grand Inquisitor

I know a woman who, as a particularly challenging deadline approaches in her work, dreams she is roused in the middle of the night by an insistent knocking at her door. In her dream she rises, draws her nightdress about her and holds a lantern up as she opens the door to discover a small figure of a man wrapped in a trenchcoat whom she initially mistakes for Sartre. Immediately this compact figure begins to interrogate her vigorously in English, French and German. His presence on her threshold like a tumbler of bicarbonate of soda, bubbly, fizzy, sparkling, gassy. It's George Steiner. "What assurance do you have you're working hard enough?" he needs to know. "What do you believe in? Are you busy? Do you have a moment? What is the crux of your existence?"

If you're going to dream a Grand Inquisitor, the subconscious choice of Steiner says a lot about how well stocked your cellar is. I usually come up with Jeremy Paxman, but that may well be a dreamy function of the old mind/body problem, of libido over celebration. *Errata: An Examined Life*, Steiner's new collection of 11 essays, admonitory on the identity of which Grand Inquisitor has kept Steiner on the knife edge of preparedness all his life, madly cramming in anticipation of life's final test, the ultimate trick question.

But Steiner trumped this trick so long ago — in *Language and Silence*, *After Babel*, *Antigones*,

Critic on the edge

ERRATA
An Examined Life
By George Steiner
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £11.99
ISBN 0 297 83584 4

The Portage to San Cristobal of A.H. — that I have to question why with all the brilliance bestowed on him at birth and every subsequent opportunity, as it appears from my casual observer's perspective, passionately and fruitfully exploited in the best of senses, he continues to harry his personal peace of mind with public displays of self-justification. That he does so here with humour and self-deprecation is to his credit: that he does so at all essays, succeeds in lifting the veil on the identity of which Grand Inquisitor has kept Steiner on the knife edge of preparedness all his life, madly cramming in anticipation of life's final test, the ultimate trick question.

Every profession creates its own province and, therefore, its own professionalism. By all accounts, Steiner is a galvanic, exciting

teacher. If you have been fortunate enough to watch him give a lecture, as I have, then you have appraised, consensually or not, a rabid intellect at work, meticulous and tender, sensuous and pompous, in promoting his own passions. He writes, when he's writing from his senses, like an angel. His gifts are so many and so energetically expressed that it is not surprising, given the jealous attention to every gesture in any provincial society, that his academic achievements have been attacked. But it is one thing to be called to battle to face Achilles, Julius Caesar or — hell — Rambo; it is quite another to be called into the fray to fight a single army ant.

And that's what *Errata*, in the most part, reads like: man against mosquito. Steiner agonises. The display of a luminous intelligence volunteering for a downward eddy to substantiate itself to lesser lights.

Most of the 11 so-called essays in *Errata* read as perorations, as if, I suspect, they were written originally as lectures. There is little here for any Steiner fan, that's new. More fuel for Steiner foes, for fire. Steiner is too smart not to have reckoned that, and I'm angry with him for playing in that choir. For not targeting his intelligence elsewhere, beyond the boundary of the province that would squeeze him. Who knows — maybe Socrates once turned to Plato to ask: "Do these pants make me look fat?"

All we can hope is that Plato replied: "No, the pants don't. But the question certainly does."

A Ford you can rely on

The rhythm of Richard Ford's prose is distinct but discreet, like the hum of an expensive engine: his words are measured but never laboured, his cadences artfully artless. The effect is wholly American, the legacy Hemingway's. The three novellas that comprise *Women With Men* offer the pleasures of this style, simultaneously frank and oblique, and the poignancy of Ford's insight into the lives of the striving and the flawed.

Like Frank Bascombe, the hero of Ford's novels *The Sportsman* and *Independence Day*, the men in these stories are adrift in their lives, in search of life itself. They crave mutability and purpose equally. It is the women around them who act, whether in departure or in patience: it is the women who take responsibility. In this sense, the book's title is apt, but all three novellas belong to their male protagonists; it is their confusion that attracts Ford's meticulous eye.

Tellingly, two of the pieces are set in Paris, the emblematic centre of American exile, where life is lived in translation — or, more often, in liberation and terrifying incomprehension. *The Womanizer* follows Martin Austin, a 44-year-old from Chicago, in his bungled search to "regulate life, do little harm and still be attached to others". On a business trip to France, he meets Josephine Belliard, a divorcee with a small son. Theirs is not a consummated affair but rather the delicious maintenance, over several days, of "the exquisite moment before anything is acted on and when all is potential, before life turns this way or that." Barbara, Austin's wife of many years, sees his behaviour differently: "You think of yourself as a given," she observes, "that what you go off to some foreign country and do won't have any effect on you, won't leave you different." Austin, fighting to live in the moment, seems incapable of comprehending consequences and hence of comprehending life.

The weight of consequences hangs over 17-year-old Lawrence, too, but he is their passive observer.



Richard Ford: delineating a quiet conflict of the sexes

Claire Messud

WOMEN WITH MEN
By Richard Ford
Harvill, £14.99
ISBN 1 85146 341 X

The narrator of *Jealousy* recalls the Thanksgiving of 1975, when he leaves his father in Montana to travel with his aunt Doris to his mother's new home in Seattle. Awaiting the train in a bar in a town called Shelby, the boy and his aunt are witness to hideous violence. Its motives a matter only of shadowy conjecture to them, just as his parents' separation and the bond between his father and Doris remain murky to young Lawrence.

In *Occidentalis*, Charley Matthews, like Martin Austin, is in Paris. A former professor, a former husband and father, Matthews has travelled with his lover, Helen, to meet the French publisher of his

first novel. But the publisher leaves town unmet, and in the bitter damp of Parisian winter, the couple's trip somehow becomes Helen's. Matthews has claimed that he would "like for things not to centre so much on me", and this is indeed what transpires; but this translation of focus — like the imminent translation of his novel — is more extreme a process than he has anticipated. "Often, of course, you learn what your book is about after you write it," suggests his French translator. "Sometimes after someone translates it and tells you."

Ford's men seek meaning, in their fumbling, convoluted stings, and it is the women in their lives, who, in one way or another, provide translation, the glimmers of truth. But these men are also seeking control, and some measure of freedom, that Ford, in his mastery, has over his stories — and that, it would seem, they can find only fleetingly, and alone.

Big boys' games



The real U2 spy plane that saw the Russian nuclear missile sites in Cuba

Raymond Seitz

ONE HELL OF A GAMBLE
By Aleksandr Fursenko
and Timothy Naftali
John Murray, £25
ISBN 0 7195 5518 3

Soviet foothold in America's back yard would be intolerable. Kennedy approved elaborate CIA plans to destabilise the Cuban regime, and though he had little faith these would work, he feared anything more overt might provoke a harsh Soviet response elsewhere, possibly Berlin.

In surreptitiously shipping intermediate-range nuclear missiles to Cuba, the Russians acquired a credible "first strike" capability against the United States. For the Americans, Cuba was transformed

from a regional nuisance into a strategic threat. Kennedy shrewdly decided on a military quarantine of Cuba instead of an outright attack, as his service chiefs urged. Rather than a confrontation, the president offered Khrushchev a political way out: a unilateral pledge not to invade Cuba. He also offered an "understanding" that the American missiles in Turkey would be removed (already on the cards anyway).

On October 22, just before his famous speech to the nation, John Kennedy privately told congressional leaders that, if Khrushchev did not dismantle the weapons, America would have to invade Cuba. And if America attacked, Soviet forces there might launch their nuclear missiles. "It was," he said, "one hell of a gamble." Khrushchev, for his part, commented in the Politburo: "If the

United States insists on war, then we will all meet in hell." But Khrushchev had the wit to know when his bluff was called, and the cleverness to dress up defeat as victory. In securing a no-invasion pledge, he claimed that his goals had been achieved. But it was hard to cover up the humiliation of withdrawal. Castro was furious. His "protector" was suddenly cutting deals with the enemy. The Cuban seemed to prefer a nuclear exchange to backing down.

What is most unsettling in this book is how badly each player misread the other. Castro believed the more Soviet protection there was, the safer he would be. Khrushchev thought he could get away with a strategic provocation of the American giant because the young Kennedy seemed so irresolute. Kennedy thought Cuba was virtually impregnable but that he could choose his own time to deal with the Latin menace. And as the crisis ripened, each leader took steps that made more likely exactly what each was attempting to avoid.

These miscalculations make for chilly reading. No course was obviously the right one, and the confusion of decision-making, back-channel communication and simple slip-ups demonstrate how easily things could have gone calamitously wrong.

For students of the Cold War who enjoy high-stakes, close-call diplomacy, this is a compelling book and an important contribution to understanding the last half-century.

Wolves beneath the sea

M. R. D. Foot

HITLER'S U-BOAT WAR
By Clay Blair
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £30
ISBN 0 297 84076 2

U-30 and torpedoed the SS *Athenia*, a passenger liner he mistook for an auxiliary cruiser. On Hitler's orders, the Germans pretended *Athenia* had been sunk by the British. Before long, German propaganda was trumpeting out the successes of the various U-boat aces; and indeed, the submarine effort almost brought Great Britain to disaster. At most, but not quite, as Mr Blair concludes: "While the U-boat campaign against the combined Allied tanker fleet caused great hardships and inconveniences, it failed to achieve a decisive strategic success." The same could be said of the efforts against the Royal and United States navies and against merchant shipping supplying the United Kingdom in general.

The book has plenty of detailed accounts of actions at sea: such as Prien's extraordinary feat of arms, when he

crept into Scapa Flow to torpedo the Royal Oak, or Baker-Cresswell's duel with Lemp in mid-Atlantic on May 9, 1941, in which Lemp drowned and the British emerged with U-10's Enigma machine intact. It is a relief to read a piece of naval history in which proper weight is given to intelligence's part in the fighting: both to the advantages the Germans got from reading the simple code on which the Admiralty long insisted for convoy captains, and to the role played by Bletchley Park in securing the Germans' eventual defeat.

The second half of the book deals with the U-boat effort against the United States and runs to September 1, 1942. A further volume is promised to carry the story on to the end of the war, when the colossal productive capacity of the United States came to render the threat from U-boats almost negligible. Even in the period this volume covers, the U-boat danger was, according to Blair, not as severe as it was thought to be at the time.

This book will be read with interest by anyone who served in the campaign, or has relatives who lost their lives in it. It is salutary for the British to see it viewed largely from the enemy's point of view. There are some unsettling minor errors (the Nazis, for instance, never had a majority in the pre-1933 Reichstag; *Hood* was a battleship, not a super-battleship). Yet it remains a triumph of naval history-writing.

On October 16, 1962, John Kennedy was reading the morning newspapers when the National Security Adviser, McGeorge Bundy, showed him the first U2 reconnaissance photographs of the Soviet nuclear missile bases in Cuba. In the fortnight that followed, the United States and the Soviet Union came closer to an all-out cat-and-mouse game than at any time during the Cold War. The world had a narrow escape.

Just how narrow emerges from this readable account of the Cuban missile crisis by two scholars — one Russian and one American — who have meticulously reconstructed the events that led to the show-down. The chronology is retold step by step, and like a tense screenplay, the plot cuts in Washington, then Moscow or Havana and back to Washington.

Fursenko and Naftali also explore how the two superpowers arrived at this moment of truth and how catastrophe was ultimately averted. Drawing on previously unavailable sources, especially the Kremlin records of Khrushchev's Politburo sessions and the tape recordings of Kennedy's White House meetings, the authors replay the match of superpower chess.

By 1962 Fidel Castro had completed the make-over of the Cuban revolution from popular peasant uprising to communist police state. Cuba's ideological template was more Maoist than Leninist, but only the Soviet Union could offer protection in an

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A short course in the diplomatic niceties

Dear Clare Short: Those of us who suspected that your appointment as International Development Secretary was that clever Mr Blair's way of giving you enough rope to hang yourself are beginning to think again. Mind, we scarce thought that people calling themselves Montserratians would be so yenuous as to go so far as to say that you are already up to heret in volcanic ash.

The trouble is that Montserrat is no place for a straight-talking lady to start a career in international politics. Heavens, no. Majora is where you should have started. You cannot be International Development Secretary in a pulsating modern government without first acquiring the skills of diplomacy and tact which you, rather endearingly, seem to lack.

You cannot say (though you did)

of a Montserratian whose very home is turning into toast that he will be "wanting golden elephants near". Whereas, here we reach the core of this unsolicited, though I must welcome, career advice, whereas something of the kind addressed to that unloved creature, the British larger lout, would be just the ticket.

What an International Development Secretary needs is a spell of acclimatisation to the diplomatic weather, an opportunity to take the temperature of the job in a less sensitive post: a gradual introduction to the niceties, the sensitivities, of global intercourse.

Therefore, Inside Story: Our Man in Majora (BBC1) should have been required viewing in the Short household last night. Here we met a man with a wonderful job: a job at once part of the heady diplomatic round and yet somehow divorced from it. John Blakenore is British Consul in

Palma de Majora and as such he is, as he was at pains to point out, very busy in the summer.

The same could be said for a person selling ice cream or deckchairs, though admittedly a British consul is under slightly greater pressure. Among Britain's temporary summer exports to Majora there appear to be some exceptionally idiotic people, though one had to admire the zealous bilingualism of one young man: "Can you tell me where to catch a bus: public transport?"

Of course you, Ms Short, could have told him not only where to catch it but also what to do with it. What, though, might you have made of a trickier case, the chap who ended up in hospital having gone to Palma airport for the flight home and suffered a blackout? What would you have done about his shoes?

REVIEW



Peter Barnard

They were missing by the time he fetched up at the consulate. Given Blakenore's earnest belief that the consulate had to help where possible but "cannot afford to be seen as a soft touch", this was a tricky one to call. Would you (a) send the consular assistant out for a pair of cheap sandals (b) tell him hardly anyone wears shoes in Majora in summer or (c) say: "You'll be wanting Gucci boots

next." The correct answer is (a). Most of the consulate's day, and some of its nights, appeared to be concerned with lost or stolen passports, tickets and money. The most colourful case was a man whose "ex-girlfriend" had departed in the middle of the night with all the man's possessions, not excluding his toothbrush. Just before he left, "£700-worth of jewellery went over the balcony". The man added that he and the girl "had been having an argument", in case we thought that they were part of an expatriate repatriation company performing a new play about asset-stripping.

So Blakenore and his staff, which includes his wife, manage a busy but relatively sedate corner of England's foreign field, an ideal location, surely, for the bleeding of politicians who might one day have to deal with unexpected crises in half-forgotten colonies. I leave the thought with you, Ms Short.

And move on to the serious business of bullying, which is the subject of a BBC want at present. **Bully: I Just Want It To Stop** (BBC2) was an excellent film about an experiment in one school which, by taking a positive attitude to both the bullies and the bullied, is showing impressive results.

Carterton Community College in Oxfordshire operates a system whereby teachers gather a small group of about five pupils together to discuss a specific pupil who is being bullied. The victim is not in the group but one or two of the bullying children are.

The teacher asks each of the children to suggest something that will help stop the bullying, which — in the case of the perpetrators — has the effect of confronting them with what they are doing without actually punishing them for it. One victim, a pleasant girl called Vicki, explained how isolating the bully-

ing was: "I just felt lonely. There are so many groups in the school. I'm not in any of them."

One's heart goes out to children treated in this way, but Vicki certainly benefited from the no-blame approach adopted by the school and the creators of the scheme, educationists Barbara Maines and George Robinson, say it is up to 90 per cent effective. There is convincing evidence that making every child in a group responsible for terminating the bullying is far better than trying to root out bullies and punish them.

Apart from showing how the scheme works, the programme effectively demonstrated why it is necessary. Virtually every adult will identify in one way or another with what the children in the film said, for in childhood, every generation seems to need to be part of a group, to be accepted by peers. If the cycle of bullying can be broken, the future will be enriched.

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (91041)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (1) (80722)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (1) (866846)
9.20 Ready, Steady, Cook (1) (8647138)
9.50 Esther: Mummies (1) (8733225)
10.20 Put It to the Test (5700966)
10.45 Carri's Caribbean Curry (866846)
11.00 News (1) and weather (866846)
11.05 Allison's Last Mountain (1/2) (1) (8134472)
11.35 Paradox of the Emperors (1) (8313684)
12.00 News (1) and weather (1409408)
12.05pm West (1) (866846)
12.35 Neighbours (1) (866846)
1.00 News (1) and weather (866846)
1.30 Regional News and weather (866846)
1.40 Columbo: Murder by the Book (1971)
The dishevelled detective (Peter Falk) investigates the mysterious murder of a man and two women. Directed by Steven Spielberg (1) (8770887)
2.50 Quincy (1) (3707684)
3.40 Popeye (1) (866846) 3.45 Peter Pan and the Pirates (1) (734645) 4.15 Dinosaur (1) (866846)
5.00 Newsround (1) (2263461)
5.10 Byker Grove (1) (1) (8114374)
5.35 Neighbours (1) (866846)
6.00 News (1) and weather (119)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (789)
7.00 Watchdog: Value for Money Buying from abroad via the Internet: saving money on wedding hire: Last in series (1) (8732)
7.30 EastEnders: A day out ends in disaster for Ricky and Bianca (1) (868)
8.00 Ronnie Barker — A Life in Comedy in the second part of the documentary charting the comedian's career. Ronnie Barker explains why he wrote his sketches under the pseudonym of Gerald Wiley (1) (8480)
8.30 Pilgrims Rest: Bob's relatives — a friendship, hoping for free tickets to a Status Quo concert (1) (4515)
9.00 News (1), regional news and weather (867)
9.30 999 International: During rescues, including that of a diver lost in a maze of caves in Venezuela: how African flying doctors saved a businessman shot by an army (1) (453225)
10.20 Making Babies: Tania and Ray's Story: A short documentary series updating the story of Tania and Ray's quest for an IVF baby (2/2) (1) (866846)
10.50 BBC Proms: 97: North and South Leeds International Piano Competition winner Ilya Itin plays Grieg's Piano Concerto in A minor with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, under Vasily Shteyn (601954)
11.45 Alan and Her Sisters (1985) Woody Allen's comedy drama charting the lives of three very different sisters over a two-year period. With Dianne Wiest, Michael Caine and Mia Farrow (878190)
1.30am Weather (5077851)

- BBC2**
- 6.00am Open University: Designs for Living (866846) 6.25 Harvesting the Sun (866846) 6.50 Problems with Ions (866846)
7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (1) (866846)
7.30 Teletubbies (1) (4089157) 7.55 Brum (1) (127845) 8.10 Raccoons (1) (1176222) 8.35 Get Your Own Back (1) (1) (866846) 9.05 Midsomer Murders (1) (866846) 9.35 Rags (1) (1) (866846) 10.05 Smurfs: Adventures (1) (5781461) 10.25 Oake Dole (1) (4061190) 10.35 Spider (1) (2783856) 10.45 Teletubbies (1) (462918) 11.15 Awash with Colour (492157)
11.45 Nicholas (1993, b/w) Acclaimed vintage comedy, starring Greta Garbo and Melvyn Douglas. Directed by Ernst Lubitsch (1852954)
1.35pm For the Love of It (3933886) 1.40 Blockbusters (1053288) 2.05 The Natural: World Classics (1) (8432428) 3.00 News (2087409)
3.05pm Modern Times: A look at a year in the life of the Victoria and Albert Museum, which saw the appointment of a new director (1) (1422428)
3.55 News (1), regional news and weather (7605577)
4.00 The Million Pound Note (1954) Gregory Peck stars in Mark Twain's story about a man who finds it impossible to spend a million pound bank note. With Jane Griffiths and Joyce Greenfield. Directed by Ronald Neame (5477022)
5.25 Today's Gourmet (1) (384703)
6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (1) (346732)
6.45 Whine, Jam, Wave and Jump (578954)
7.30 Leviathan: Mark Urban offers an insight into the downfall of the last Scottish Parliament (1) (225)
8.00 The Air Show: Hazel Irvine introduces a new series of aviation reports (3022)
8.20 Motorworld Dubai (1) (2157)
9.00 Third Rock from the Sun (1) (748206)



Russell Boulton is DS Boulton (8.00)

- HTV**
- 6.00am GMTV (7210683)
9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (1) (5631577)
9.55 Judge Judy (1) (3792003)
10.20 News (1) (5687751)
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3.10 Jones and Jerry (1) (8247692)
3.35 The Good Sex Guide: Late (1) (5688504)
4.25 Phenomena (22054438)
4.35 The Time, the Place (1) (70873165)
5.00 The Pulse (1) (57923)
5.30 News (86165)

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- SKY 1**
- 6.00am Morning Glory (871119) 6.30am Reg and Kattie Live (871119) 7.00am Our Lives (19130) 7.30am Day of Our Lives (19130) 8.00am The Bill (19130) 8.30am The Bill (19130) 9.00am The Bill (19130) 9.30am The Bill (19130) 10.00am The Bill (19130) 10.30am The Bill (19130) 11.00am The Bill (19130) 11.30am The Bill (19130) 12.00am The Bill (19130) 12.30am The Bill (19130) 1.00am The Bill (19130) 1.30am The Bill (19130) 2.00am The Bill (19130) 2.30am The Bill (19130) 3.00am The Bill (19130) 3.30am The Bill (19130) 4.00am The Bill (19130) 4.30am The Bill (19130) 5.00am The Bill (19130) 5.30am The Bill (19130) 6.00am The Bill (19130) 6.30am The Bill (19130) 7.00am The Bill (19130) 7.30am The Bill (19130) 8.00am The Bill (19130) 8.30am The Bill (19130) 9.00am The Bill (19130) 9.30am The Bill (19130) 10.00am The Bill (19130) 10.30am The Bill (19130) 11.00am The Bill (19130) 11.30am The Bill (19130) 12.00am The Bill (19130) 12.30am The Bill (19130) 1.00am The Bill (19130) 1.30am The Bill (19130) 2.00am The Bill (19130) 2.30am The Bill (19130) 3.00am The Bill (19130) 3.30am The Bill (19130) 4.00am The Bill (19130) 4.30am The Bill (19130) 5.00am The Bill (19130) 5.30am The Bill (19130) 6.00am The Bill (19130) 6.30am The Bill (19130) 7.00am The Bill (19130) 7.30am The Bill (19130) 8.00am The Bill (19130) 8.30am The Bill (19130) 9.00am The Bill (19130) 9.30am The Bill (19130) 10.00am The Bill (19130) 10.30am The Bill (19130) 11.00am The Bill (19130) 11.30am The Bill (19130) 12.00am The Bill (19130) 12.30am The Bill (19130) 1.00am The Bill (19130) 1.30am The Bill (19130) 2.00am The Bill (19130) 2.30am The Bill (19130) 3.00am The Bill (19130) 3.30am The Bill (19130) 4.00am The Bill (19130) 4.30am The Bill (19130) 5.00am The Bill (19130) 5.30am The Bill (19130) 6.00am The Bill (19130) 6.30am The Bill (19130) 7.00am The Bill (19130) 7.30am The Bill (19130) 8.00am The Bill (19130) 8.30am The Bill (19130) 9.00am The Bill (19130) 9.30am The Bill (19130) 10.00am The Bill (19130) 10.30am The Bill (19130) 11.00am The Bill (19130) 11.30am The Bill (19130) 12.00am The Bill (19130) 12.30am The Bill (19130) 1.00am The Bill (19130) 1.30am The Bill (19130) 2.00am The Bill (19130) 2.30am The Bill (19130) 3.00am The Bill (19130) 3.30am The Bill (19130) 4.00am The Bill (19130) 4.30am The Bill (19130) 5.00am The Bill (19130) 5.30am The Bill (19130) 6.00am The Bill (19130) 6.30am The Bill (19130) 7.00am The Bill (19130) 7.30am The Bill (19130) 8.00am The Bill (19130) 8.30am The Bill (19130) 9.00am The Bill (19130) 9.30am The Bill (19130) 10.00am The Bill (19130) 10.30am The Bill (19130) 11.00am The Bill (19130) 11.30am The Bill (19130) 12.00am The Bill (19130) 12.30am The Bill (19130) 1.00am The Bill (19130) 1.30am The Bill (19130) 2.00am The Bill (19130) 2.30am The Bill (19130) 3.00am The Bill (19130) 3.30am The Bill (19130) 4.00am The Bill (19130) 4.30am The Bill (19130) 5.00am The Bill (19130) 5.30am The Bill (19130) 6.00am The Bill (19130) 6.30am The Bill (19130) 7.00am The Bill (19130) 7.30am The Bill (19130) 8.00am The Bill (19130) 8.30am The Bill (19130) 9.00am The Bill (19130) 9.30am The Bill (19130) 10.00am The Bill (19130) 10.30am The Bill (19130) 11.00am The Bill (19130) 11.30am The Bill (19130) 12.00am The Bill (19130) 12.30am The Bill (19130) 1.00am The Bill (19130) 1.30am The Bill (19130) 2.00am The Bill (19130) 2.30am The Bill (19130) 3.00am The Bill (19130) 3.30am The Bill (19130) 4.00am The Bill (19130) 4.30am The Bill (19130) 5.00am The Bill (19130) 5.30am The Bill (19130) 6.00am The Bill (19130) 6.30am The Bill (19130) 7.00am The Bill (19130) 7.30am The Bill (19130) 8.00am The Bill (19130) 8.30am The Bill (19130) 9.00am The Bill (19130) 9.30am The Bill (19130) 10.00am The Bill (19130) 10.30am The Bill (19130) 11.00am The Bill (19130) 11.30am The Bill (19130) 12.00am The Bill (19130) 12.30am The Bill (19130) 1.00am The Bill (19130) 1.30am The Bill (19130) 2.00am The Bill (19130) 2.30am The Bill (19130) 3.00am The Bill (19130) 3.30am The Bill (19130) 4.00am The Bill (19130) 4.30am The Bill (19130) 5.00am The Bill (19130) 5.30am The Bill (19130) 6.00am The Bill (19130) 6.30am The Bill (19130) 7.00am The Bill (19130) 7.30am The Bill (19130) 8.00am The Bill (19130) 8.30am The Bill (19130) 9.00am The Bill (19130) 9.30am The Bill (19130) 10.00am The Bill (19130) 10.30am The Bill (19130) 11.00am The Bill (19130) 11.30am The Bill (19130) 12.00am The Bill (19130) 12.30am The Bill (19130) 1.00am The Bill (19130) 1.30am The Bill (19130) 2.00am The Bill (19130) 2.30am The Bill (19130) 3.00am The Bill (19130) 3.30am The Bill (19130) 4.00am The Bill (19130) 4.30am The Bill (19130) 5.00am The Bill (19130) 5.30am The Bill (19130) 6.00am The Bill (19130) 6.30am The Bill (19130) 7.00am The Bill (19130) 7.30am The Bill (19130) 8.00am The Bill (19130) 8.30am The Bill (19130) 9.00am The Bill (19130) 9.30am The Bill (19130) 10.00am



CRICKET 38

Gloucestershire's bowlers keep challenge alive

SPORT

THURSDAY AUGUST 28 1997

GOLF 41

Uncertainty over Ryder Cup line-up troubles Ballesteros



Everton deny deal is imminent

Exit slammed shut in face of Ravanelli

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

FABRIZIO RAVANELLI'S efforts to leave Middlesbrough, which have degenerated into one of the most protracted sagas this year, appeared to have foundered again yesterday. Everton were reported to have resurrected negotiations, which had taken on a new slant as a player-exchange deal, but the clubs denied any knowledge of the discussions.

Everton were believed to have offered Earl Barrett, the defender, and Graham Stuart, the forward, plus £3 million in an attempt to persuade Middlesbrough to reduce their asking price of £7.5 million for Ravanelli, the disenchanted Italy striker. However, Middlesbrough were quick to pour scorn on the suggestion.

"We have had no recent contact with Everton whatsoever," Viv Anderson, the Middlesbrough assistant manager, said. "Our situation has not changed. The asking price is £7.5 million and we want cash. We are not interested in the players named in reports. Their valuations are above our valuations."

Ravanelli and his many advisers spoke extensively with Peter Johnson, the Everton chairman, and Howard Kendall, the manager, during the summer. He was disillusioned by Middles-

brough's relegation to the Nationwide League first division and felt that it would affect his chances of playing for Italy.

The talks broke down because of Ravanelli's demands. Although he earns £42,000 a week at the Riverside Stadium and is the highest-paid player in England, he wanted a wage rise of £8,000 a week and a seven-figure signing-on fee. Despite Kendall's need for a goalscoring forward, he balked at the terms and ended the discussions.

With other clubs also losing interest, Ravanelli was forced to return to Middlesbrough.

Celtic's six 40
Liverpool awaken 40
Booth out 40

for whom he scored 31 goals last season, and resume his contract. He has scored once in two matches this season, but has been the target of abuse from some sections of supporters, who feel betrayed by his apparent lack of loyalty to the club. Their mood was not helped by the 1-0 home defeat against Stoke City on Saturday.

Ironically, Ravanelli has now re-entered the thoughts of Cesare Maldini, the Italy

coach. On Tuesday he was called into the Italy squad for the World Cup group two qualifying match against Georgia in Tbilisi on September 10, the result of which could affect England's chances of reaching the finals in France next year.

Kendall spent the weekend in Holland, where he watched a player. "I had the opportunity to go over to check out a recommendation," he said yesterday. "Unfortunately, it is one we can now scrub off our list."

However, he has not made any moves to pursue Ravanelli again. "Boro lost at the weekend, so I suppose people will look at that and say that they might be more keen to sell now," Kendall said. "You don't change your opinion on a world-class player, which is what Ravanelli is, but we have had no contact with them. There are many other things to consider before I would even think about reopening talks."

Tomas Brodin, the unsettled Leeds United striker, may have more success in leaving Elland Road. Brodin, who joined the club from Parma, Italy, for £4.3 million in November 1995, is hoping to sign for Real Zaragoza, of Spain. "We are 99 per cent certain of agreeing a deal with Zaragoza," Mats Olsson, Brodin's adviser, said yesterday.

Brodin briefly returned to Leeds in July, after loan spells with FC Zurich and Parma last season, but George Graham, the manager, swiftly made it clear that he was surplus to requirements. He was not even included in the pre-season team photocall.

Hopes of an early return from injury for Alan Shearer were dashed yesterday after an about-turn by Sir John Hall, the Newcastle United chairman. Sir John had said that the England and Newcastle striker could be recovered from ankle ligament damage by November, but he revised his estimate after speaking to the club doctor in Zagreb before Newcastle's European Cup second qualifying round tie. "He has informed me that it is far too early to give any indication as to when Alan will be back," Sir John said.



Shearer: hope unfounded



Normal service is resumed with Agassi in action against Campbell during his three sets to one win in the first round at Flushing Meadows

Agassi's charm offensive in full flow

FROM DAVID POWELL
IN NEW YORK

WHEN Andre Agassi was preparing to tie the matrimonial knot with Brooke Shields last April, something else was working loose — his grip on his place among the world's tennis elite.

He began the year ranked No 12, but, by mid-August, he had slipped to his lowest position in a decade, No 74. Given the alarming decline of the game's most charismatic player, he was in need of a friend and the US Open here has usually been that to him. It is the grand slam tournament that has provided him with his most consistent success: he has won it once, finished runner-up twice and reached the semi-finals on three other occasions.

Having lost his opening match in seven of his 11 tournaments this year, Agas-

si's progress here seemed far from certain, even though his first-round opponent was a little-known wild-card entrant, Steve Campbell, ranked No 130 but eager to impress in the city of his birth. If the fortunes were gathering, there seemed good reason.

Tony Trabert, twice champion in the 1950s, had pronounced Agassi's form dead. "He does not have anything now," Trabert said. "He does not have his foot speed, does not have his confidence." This was not the Agassi we saw here at Flushing Meadows on Tuesday night. Though he began the match with a double-fault, he ousted Campbell 6-1, 6-1, 4-6, 6-3.

Phillip Agassi, the player's manager and brother, had denied that marriage had come at the price of his tennis. The man himself had said, after a minor remis-

sance in Indianapolis two weeks ago, where he survived three rounds: "My relationship with Brooke is nothing but good."

His relationship with sections of the 21,000 spectators in the Arthur Ashe stadium needed working on. He was

Results 41
Bruguera fightback 42

introduced to loud applause, with an undercurrent of jeers, some objecting to his failure the night before to appear in the stadium's opening ceremony.

However, in a good-humoured match, Agassi played the funny man. Campbell was a set and 2-0 down, having lost six successive games, when he played a blistering forehand out of Agassi's reach. The former champion stood left

hand on left hip, striking an indignant pose of the kind which one might expect of his wife on screen, then threw his racket to the ground in mock anger.

On another occasion, when Agassi found himself face to face with Campbell across the net, he waved his racket as though he was forcing. He had the crowd in the palm of his hand and Campbell at the end of his sword.

Agassi, who won the tournament when unseeded in 1994, moved his opponent around the court, stretching him, out for wide for the service returns. "I am very pleased with my game," he said. "I am moving well. The fundamentals of everything I need to improve on are there. Now it is a matter of fine-tuning. When I got out there, I remembered the dance."

In the second game of the second set, Agassi, playing in his first grand-slam tourna-

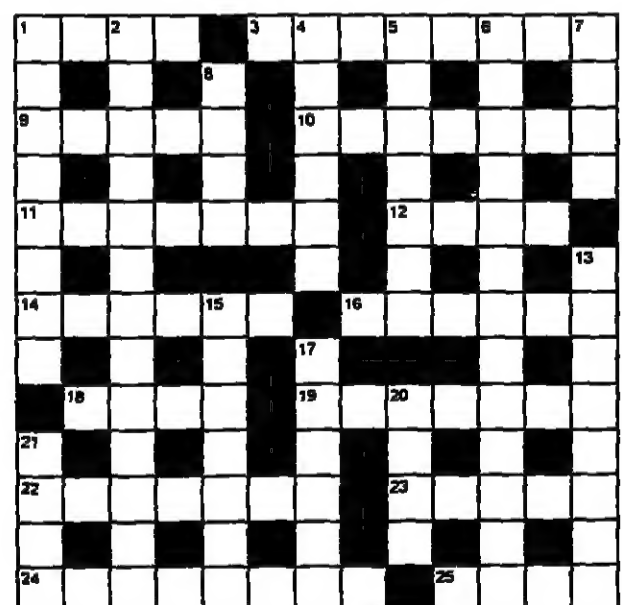
ment of the year, displayed power and dexterity in successive points, the first a venomous backhand down the line, the second a deft touch over the net.

Agassi is now ranked No 63 and is without a title win this year. Still, though, he has his 727 jet and a reported ten-year \$100 million (\$64 million) contract with Nike. Next he will play Adrian Panatta, from Romania, but then he is scheduled to face his first severe test, against Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the No 3 seed, from Russia.

Having been expected at the opening ceremony, Agassi was asked explain why he did not show. He was said to be upset that his name was not read out during the roll-call of champions at the dinner. Agassi denied this, saying he needed to "make a call". Asked to elaborate, he refused. Unyielding off court and on.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1184 in association with
BRITISH MIDLAND



ACROSS

- 1 A tool: one's preference (4)
- 3 Weakness, bent (8)
- 9 Minor, narrow-minded (5)
- 10 Ratify; verify (7)
- 11 Female big cat (7)
- 12 Hinged lid; minor panic (4)
- 14 Powerful, wily (6)
- 16 Go on journey (6)
- 18 Tie up; one like Othello (4)
- 19 Nightclub entertainment (7)
- 22 Dropping of vowel (7)
- 23 Pigs 20 people (5)
- 24 Marlene — Bonhöffer (8)
- 25 String fastening (4)

DOWN

- 1 Supporter of the ordinary man (8)
- 2 Deflate (one's) pretensions (3,4,2,4)
- 4 Cut out; a tax (6)
- 5 Tree as spruce, larch (7)
- 6 A considered criticism (13)
- 7 Heavy volume (6)
- 8 Edward — Earl of Clarendon; a London park (4)
- 13 Abuse (3-5)
- 15 Fighter (7)
- 17 Affording pretty views (6)
- 20 Foundation; unworthy (4)
- 21 Provide (for); ward (off) (4)

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Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 5080, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 7GN, to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address

SOLUTION TO NO 1183

ACROSS: 1 Hatchet 5 Haste 8 Debut 9 Pas seul 10 Ivy 11 Steam open 12 Napier 14 Insured 17 Assiduity 18 Peg 19 Grimace 20 Chloé 21 Smei 22 Profes
DOWN: 1 Hadrian 2 Tubby 3 Hill 4 Tippet 5 Hush money 6 Sweeper 7 Ellen 11 Stomach 13 Postpone 15 Digress 16 Pile up 17 Angles 18 Pulse 20 Cao

Russians' advance blocked

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

KOSICE, of Slovakia, earned a place in the European Cup Champions' League yesterday when they fought out a goalless draw with Spartak Moscow in the second leg of their qualifying round match in Russia. Spartak failed to convert 90 minutes of relentless pressure into a goal, leaving Kosice to go through 2-1 on aggregate.

The Russian team's attack, spearheaded by Dmitry Alenichev and Robson, the Brazilian, repeatedly lost their way amid the packed Slovak defence. The fast-breaking Russian Lubarski kept Spartak on their toes but it was essentially one-way traffic.

Ladislav Molnar, in the Kosice goal, was rarely stretched, though only the

woodwork saved him during a desperate Spartak onslaught five minutes from time.

In Ukraine, Dynamo Kiev lost 1-0 to Bromby but went through 4-3 on aggregate, courtesy of a 4-2 victory in Denmark in the first leg. The visitors scored in the nineteenth minute, when a Kiev defender, trying to head the ball out of danger after a corner, looped it into the net with an overhead kick.

Kiev missed two good opportunities to equalise, but Bromby also failed to capitalise on a promising attack near the end of the first half and entered the second period needing two goals to win on aggregate. However, Kiev allowed the visitors few chances, holding on doggedly for a narrow aggregate win

before 12,000 soggy, rainswept supporters.

Dynamo Tbilisi restored Georgian honour with a 1-0 home win over Bayer Leverkusen, but still went out 6-2 on aggregate, having been overwhelmed 6-1 in the first leg in Germany.

David Mudzhiri scored the goal against last season's Bundesliga runners-up, hitting a free kick from 20 yards in the eleventh minute that found the Bayer Leverkusen defensive wall lacking.

The Georgians battled hard for a second goal to restore further pride and Mudzhiri, the game's outstanding player, hit the woodwork shortly after the break. But it was not to be. Emerson, Bayer Leverkusen's new signing, missed a good opportunity to equalise.

Oldham suffers on two fronts

Christopher Irvine on how fans in the town are bearing up after a terrible day

Boundary Park, the solemn faces there yesterday were grimmer than usual. Around the corner, at the Carters Arms, Martin Butterworth, 33, a supporter of both clubs, said: "I followed the games on Ceefax. Minute-by-minute. It got worse. 3-0, 4-0, 5-0; 12-0, 18-0, 22-0. You learn to tolerate the humiliation after a while, but especially with the Bears going down I can't think of a more depressing night."

The surrender of both teams with barely a whimper, together with doubts surrounding the future of the Bears, plunged the town into an even worse fit of depression. Tony Bugby, the Chronicle's football writer, said:

"The sense of despondency is exaggerated because it's hard to imagine right now how either club can pull themselves up."

Fleeting success has, too, been enjoyed together. In 1990, the year Athletic lost to Nottingham Forest in their only Wembley final appearance in the League Cup, both clubs lost in the penultimate stage of the respective FA Cup and Challenge Cup competitions. The town missed out on two of three possible Wembley visits that year, but after seven consecutive defeats in semi-finals, Bears' fans are used to Wembley remaining a pipe dream.

Both clubs enjoyed their

best years in the early part of the century. With Athletic slipping back two divisions in three seasons after relegation from the FA Cup and Premiership in 1994 and the Bears facing up to life next year in the first division, the sharing, at least in terms of Boundary Park, is poised to end. The club has struggled to meet rental costs of £7,000 per match this year and a move to their training headquarters, at the more modest Oldham rugby union club, seems a logical move, if the club is to survive.

For the 200 Bears supporters in the French capital, there was only one way to handle relegation from the Super League. Their hangover persists. Not that an eyelid was batted in Paris or Grimsby about a far away town in sporting torment.

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